



NIRB File No.: 16YN041

NPC File No.: 148305

June 24, 2016

Marie Cardona
Advisian, Worley Parsons Group
Suite 600, Willingdon Park Phase 6,
4321 Still Creek Drive
Burnaby, BC V5C 6S7

Sent via email: marie.cardona@advisian.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Advisian's "Geotechnical and Environmental Baseline Studies-Iqaluit Port Development" project proposal

Dear Marie Cardona:

On June 8, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Advisian's "Geotechnical and Environmental Baseline Studies-Iqaluit Port Development" 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 **16YN041**.

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 June 16, 2016 the NIRB requested that the Advisian provide additional information in support of this proposal by June 30, 2016. On June 22, 2016 the NIRB received the requested additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed "Geotechnical and Environmental Baseline Studies-Iqaluit Port Development" project is located within the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region, within the city boundaries of Iqaluit, and in the marine areas proximal to the community. The proponent intends to conduct geotechnical and environmental baseline studies in preparation of an Environmental Assessment in support of a proposed new deep water port, and in support of the design for upgrades to an

existing municipal breakwater and boat ramp in Iqaluit. The program is proposed to take place from 2016 to 2017.

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

- Collection of geotechnical baseline data between July and September 2016/2017, and between March and May 2017 with the studies lasting approximately two (2) weeks for each study period;
- Collection of environmental baseline data in the summer/fall of 2016 with additional studies conducted in the summer/fall of 2017 if required;
- Transportation of personnel to project site(s) by truck;
- Use of rotary, diamond and hand-held drilling equipment to conduct geotechnical drilling;
- Undertake terrestrial baseline surveys by foot, and utilize one (1) motorized boat for marine-based studies;
- Collection of water and sediment quality samples to establish existing conditions. Two (2) sampling events occurring once post-ice melt and once prior to freeze-up;
- Conduct towed video surveys with an underwater camera to identify the presence, type and value of fish habitat;
- Collection of benthic invertebrates using a grab sampler;
- Deployment of surface drogues in the marine environment for collection of surface current speed and direction data;
- Collection of migratory and marine bird surveys along the shoreline;
- Conduct an ecosystem mapping and rare plant survey to confirm terrestrial vegetation and rare plants in the project area;
- Conduct soil, geotechnical conditions and geochemistry studies;
- Use of up to 100 Litres (L) of diesel fuel for drilling rig;
- Transport and use of hazardous materials for drill equipment and chemicals for sampling preservation;
- Use of approximately 2 cubic metres (m³) of water per day for drilling activities and anticipated to be sourced from the municipality and/ or pumped from sea;
- Accommodate field crew in facilities within the municipality of Iqaluit;
- Use of environmentally friendly drilling muds with drill cuttings generated in the marine area to be pumped down borehole on completion of activities; and
- Potential use of portable toilet on-site with sewage treated in a municipal facility.

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: Geotechnical and Environmental Baseline Field Studies - Iqaluit Port Development
- NIRB File No.: 16YN041

- Application No.: 124673

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application and Supporting Documentation*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form (formerly the NIRB Part 1 form in English)*
- *NIRB Part 1 Form in English and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting Iqaluit Port Development Baseline Study Area*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Abandonment and Restoration Plan*
- *Spill Prevention Plan*
- *Waste Management Plan*
- *Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan*

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 Advisian's 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.

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) 983-4603 or at samuno@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Mike Immaroitok, Government of Nunavut-Community and Government Services
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Georgina Williston, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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

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

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. Advisian (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, June 8, 2016), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 22, 2016, NIRB Part 1 form in English and Inuktitut, June 22, 2016).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water Use

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. 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.

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.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

20. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
21. The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the end of each field season and/or upon abandonment of site.

Other

22. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
23. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people.

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