



NIRB File No.: 16YN046
NPC File No.: 148306

July 13, 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 – Pond Inlet Small Craft Harbour Development” project proposal

Dear Marie Cardona:

On June 28, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Advisian’s “Geotechnical and Environmental Baseline Studies – Pond Inlet Small Craft Harbour Development” 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 **16YN046** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed “Geotechnical and Environmental Baseline Studies – Pond Inlet Small Craft Harbour Development” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, within the community of Pond Inlet. The Proponent intends to conduct geotechnical and environmental baseline studies to support the design and potential future development of a quarry, small craft harbour, and breakwater. The program is proposed to consist of seasonal activities between July 2016 and September 2017.

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

- Environmental studies to include:

- Water and sediment quality sampling using different sampling techniques;
- Fish and fish habitat identification studies using an underwater video camera and grab sampling to collect and study benthic invertebrate communities in the area;
- Ocean current data collection using up to two (2) surface drogues equipped with Global Positioning System data loggers with seasonal removal;
- Local migratory and marine bird species identification through a shoreline, near-shore, and off-shore visual survey;
- Ecosystem mapping and rare plant identification using a meander search method survey;
- Geotechnical and geochemical studies to include:
 - Small Craft Harbour – Drilling and/or cone penetration testing at up to eight (8) test locations using a 660 square metre (m) marine drilling barge and a 2.5 tonne portable drill rig with borehole tests (0.1 m diameter) up to 20 m below seabed;
 - Quarry – Drilling and/or cone penetration testing at up to two (2) test locations using a 2.5 tonne portable drill rig with borehole tests (0.1 m diameter) up to 15 m below grade;
 - Use of handheld drilling equipment to supplement geotechnical and geochemical sampling and studies;
 - Remediation of drill sites by filling and capping and removal of marine drilling equipment prior to seasonal demobilization;
- Accommodations for up to 20 personnel within the community of Pond Inlet and use of local facilities;
- Transportation of personnel and equipment using passenger vehicles, snow machines, and a motorboat;
- Storage and use of fuel, chemicals, and drilling additives to facilitate environmental and geotechnical research activities;
- Use of a municipal water source to facilitate geotechnical studies;
- Collection, separation, and disposal of combustible, non-combustible, and hazardous wastes at appropriate municipal facilities; and
- Storage of sewage within portable toilets at research sites with disposal at appropriate municipal facilities.

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 Studies – Pond Inlet
- NIRB File No.: 16YN046
- Application No.: 124674

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 geotechnical and environmental study areas*
- *Various environmental and operational management plans*
- *Supplemental information documents*
- *Stakeholder Consultation Summary*
- *File correspondence*

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 **August 3, 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) 983-4615 or at dstpierre@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Davin St. Pierre
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
 Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Mike Immaroitok, Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services
 Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
 LeeAnn Pugh, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
 Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
 Mia Pelletier, Canadian Wildlife Service
 Lisa Pirie, Canadian Wildlife Service
 Elizabeth Patreau, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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