



NIRB File No.: 16YN040

NPC File No.: 148271

July 29, 2016

Tommy Tremblay
Natural Resources Canada
183-601 Booth St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E8

Sent via email: tommy.tremblay@canada.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Natural Resources Canada's "Western Hudson Bay Geoscience for Infrastructure" project proposal

Dear Tommy Tremblay:

On June 9, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)'s "Western Hudson Bay Geoscience for Infrastructure" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin 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 16YN040.

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 20, 2016 the NIRB requested that NRCan provide additional information in support of this proposal by July 4, 2016. On July 13, 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 "Western Hudson Bay Geoscience for Infrastructure" project is located within the Kivalliq region, within 300 kilometres (km) north and west of Rankin Inlet. The proponent intends to collect baseline terrain and permafrost data along the western Hudson Bay coast. The program is proposed to take place during August and September, 2016 through 2018.

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

- Collection of geological and geomorphological observations and ground-based geophysical data to support analysis and use of remote sensing products;
- Use of a truck and/or all-terrain vehicle within Rankin Inlet municipal limits to access trails for sampling purposes;
- Transportation of up to three (3) personnel by aircraft between Rankin Inlet, sampling sites, and pre-established tourist and outpost camps for sampling purposes;
- Use of 40 litres (L) of gasoline for all-terrain vehicle, truck, and drills;
- Use of light duty drill to temporarily install four (4) shallow temperature boreholes less than three (3) metres (m) for thermistor cables and data loggers;
- Use of an air track drill to temporarily install three (3) deep ground temperature boreholes at 15 m depth for thermistor cables and dataloggers;
- Use of light duty drill to install temporary up to four (4) thaw tubes (PVC filled with water);
- Thermistor cable and dataloggers to be removed at the end of the project with PVC casings cut at ground level and will stay buried in the ground; and
- Use of accommodations and facilities in 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: Western Hudson Bay Geoscience for Infrastructure
- NIRB File No.: 16YN040
- Application No.: 124676

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, Inuktitut and French*
- *Maps noting Project Area*
- *Environmental Impacts Assessment Report*
- *Environmental Impacts Report*
- *Supplemental Supporting Information*

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 Natural Resources Canada project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 8, 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) 983-4607 or at kbenoit@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kristina Benoit
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Karén 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 and Northern Affairs 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. Natural Resources 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, June 9, 2016), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 13, 2016; and translated Application Materials and Project Details, July 13, 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/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 avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.
18. The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

Aircraft Flight Restrictions

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
22. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

Caribou Disturbance

23. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of caribou, until the caribou have passed or left the area.

24. 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

25. 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

26. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
27. 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

28. 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.
29. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people.
30. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.