



NIRB File No.: 16UN058

Associated NIRB File No.: 00MN059

NPC File No.: 148585

June 16, 2017

Michael Westlake
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
10th Floor, 25 Eddy St
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Sent via email: michael.westlake@aandc.gtc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's "Jericho Site Stabilization - Amendment" project proposal

Dear Michael Westlake:

On May 30, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)'s "Jericho Site Stabilization - Amendment" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). The NPC noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the use of explosives currently being proposed was not included in the original project description.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **16UN058**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in **Appendix A**.

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. Pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the NuPPAA, on May 31, 2017 the NIRB requested that the

additional information from INAC be provided to the Board. The Proponent provided the requested additional information on June 14, 2017 and the NIRB commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Jericho Mine Site Stabilization - Amendment” project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 260 kilometres (km) southeast of Kugluktuk, 430 km southwest of Cambridge Bay, at the existing Jericho Diamond Mine. In addition to the previously approved activities, the Proponent intends to remove the jetty in Carat Lake to create fish habitat on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and to possibly use explosive to aid in the removal of the frozen core West Dam. The program is proposed to take place from July to September, 2017. The scope of activities previously approved for this ongoing reclamation program (NIRB File No. 16UN058) has been included within **Appendix A**.

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

- Possible use of up to 40,000 kg of explosives, if necessary, to loosen the material in the West Dam for removal;
 - explosives to be pre-mixed and flown into site as needed;
- Removal of the pump house and water intake jetty in Carat Lake based on the Tahera Jericho Closure and Reclamation Plan (2007 Update);
 - Removal of all infrastructure associated with the water intake;
 - Excavation of the jetty to at least two (2) meters below normal summer water levels to form new fish habitat;
 - Use of silt booms and/or silt curtains to isolate the jetty from the lake for sediment and erosion control; and
- Use of heavy equipment previously approved for operations at the site.

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: Jericho Site Stabilization - Amendment
- NIRB File No.: 16UN058
- Application No.: 125150

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Application*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, Inuinnaqtun, and Inuktitut*

- *Maps noting Jericho mine site location and detailed infrastructure layout*
- *Tahera Closure and Reclamation Plan Update (2007) page 80*
- *Letter to INAC regarding the Use of Explosives as a Contingency Measure*

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 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 7, 2017**.

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 proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal 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 via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Jericho Site Stabilization - Amendment
- NIRB File No.: 16UN058
- Application No.: 125150

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at 867-983-4617 or at kmorrison@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitimeot Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Charlotte Lamontagne, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Georgina Williston, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada

Attachment: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuinnaqtun)
Comment Forms (English, Inuinnaqtun)

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal NIRB (File No. 16UN058), was received by the NIRB from Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) on September 30, 2016 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement). On December 22, 2016 the NIRB issued a Nunavut Agreement 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC or Proponent) original "Jericho Mine Site Stabilization Project" is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 260 kilometres (km) southeast of Kugluktuk, 430 km southwest of Cambridge Bay, at the existing Jericho Diamond Mine. With the goal of restoring the abandoned site to an environmentally safe condition, stabilizing the site to prevent water accumulation, and preventing the environmental migration of contaminants into surrounding ecosystems, INAC intends to conduct specific site stabilization and remediation activities between January 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018, followed by long-term monitoring during the summer months from 2019 to 2020, and possibly as long as 2044.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included the following undertakings, works or activities:¹

- Transportation of equipment, fuel, supplies, and personnel to the site by:
 - Aircraft from Yellowknife and Kugluktuk, or via
 - Seasonal winter road connection routing between the Jericho site and the existing Tibbit-Contwoyto Winter Road to mobilize and demobilize equipment between the site and Yellowknife, NWT. Approximately 20-25 round trip truckloads would be going up and back from Ekati to the Jericho site each year during two winter road seasons in February and March.
- Storage of fuel, oil, and chemicals at site for use towards stabilization activities.
- Use of existing site infrastructure, equipment, and supplies:
 - Maintenance and use of existing site airstrip and roads;
 - Use of accommodations and support buildings, generators, and equipment to accommodate up to 50 personnel;
 - Use of heavy machinery and equipment, passenger vehicles, and all-terrain vehicles to support site stabilization activities;
 - Extraction of water from Carat lake for use at camp and for remediation activities, including wetting of roads on the Jericho site as dust control;
 - Management of wastes at site, specifically:
 - Treatment and disposal of black and grey water using an on-site wastewater treatment system; and

¹ The proposed "Jericho Mine Site Stabilization Project" would not include the stabilization and remediation of infrastructure associated with the abandoned Jericho Diamond Mine Project situated on Inuit Owned Land (IOL). The proposal would, however, include the development of a winter road and the use of existing site roads located on IOL.

- Incineration of combustible wastes and select hazardous wastes from camp and remediation operations using appropriate incinerators.
- As the previously approved landfill is located on Inuit Owned Land, the stabilization would involve designing and development of a new non-hazardous landfill for use in site remediation, and closure of the landfill by capping. This landfill would hold wood debris, metal debris, aboveground storage tanks, drums, rubber, concrete, plastic and other inert items. The preferred location being proposed is west of the main camp pad on a primarily bedrock area.
- Establishment of a new landfarm within the existing Phase I and II fuel tank farm areas.
- Remediation and demolition activities to include:
 - Collection, storage, and transportation of hazardous wastes, including identified heavy metal contaminated soils, off-site by truck for disposal at appropriate facilities;
 - Excavation of petroleum hydrocarbon (PHC) and Tier 1 metal contaminated soils from around the Jericho site for remediation within the new on-site landfarm;
 - Collection and disposal of non-hazardous wastes and debris on-site, including crushing and disposal of empty fuel barrels in the new landfill;
 - Treatment and disposal of aqueous liquids on-site using aqueous liquid waste treatment systems;
 - Demolition of site buildings including main camp facility, large aboveground storage tanks, and ancillary structures and disposal in new landfill (EXCEPT: process plant, truck shop, airport camp, and facilities located on Inuit Owned Land);
 - Decommissioning and cleaning of approximately nine (9) above-ground storage tanks coated with lead-based paint, to be dismantled and staged at site for future management;
 - Restoration of natural water flow at site, specifically:
 - Breaching and stabilization of existing water retention structures C1 Diversion, West Dam, and Divider Dyke A;
 - Construction of features to direct water flow into the open pit and to manage future outflow;
 - Removal and processing of up to 50,000 cubic metres (m³) of aggregate material from existing structures (gravel pads and dams) as well as previously established borrow source 'A' to facilitate remediation activities;
 - Construction of a cover for Cell A of the Processed Kimberlite Containment Area; and
 - Grading and contouring of berms, pads, and remediation areas, including re-grading and removal of 6 (six) containment berms (two tank farm berms, gen-set day tank berm at main camp, airstrip tank berm, truck shop tank berm, and hazardous waste transfer area berm).
- Infrastructure to remain in place after remediation and demolition activities are complete includes the airstrip, site roads, core box laydown area, airport camp, truck shop, and process plant. The emulsion plant would also remain as it is located on Inuit Owned Land. Structures noted as both remaining and being landfilled were the PKCA East Dike tire berm and the core shack have been confirmed as expected to be dismantled and disposed of in the new landfill.

- Undertake long-term monitoring and sampling at site to ensure effectiveness of remediation.
- Hiring of Nunavut residents for project personnel and remediation services.