



**NIRB File No.: 17YN074**  
NPC File No.: 148663

December 22, 2017

Kristina Brown  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
606-189 National Ave.  
Vancouver, BC V6A 4L8

Sent via email: [kristina.anne.brown@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.anne.brown@gmail.com)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Connecting Snow Melt to River Discharge in the Kitikmeot Region and Northwest Territories" project proposal**

Dear Kristina Brown:

On December 15, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) "Connecting Snow Melt to River Discharge in the Kitikmeot Region and Northwest Territories" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. 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*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **17YN074** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On December 15, 2017 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that the information provided be sufficient to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and that sufficient information has been provided to commence screening.

On December 19, 2017 the NIRB received the requested additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### ***Project Scope:***

The proposed “Connecting Snow Melt to River Discharge in the Kitikmeot Region and Northwest Territories” project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 9.5 kilometres (km) from Kugluktuk and within the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay. The Proponent intends to create a local monitoring network for Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay in order to better understand freshwater contributions to the ocean under a changing climate by studying changing snow conditions. The program is proposed to take place from March 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019.

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

- Collection of snow and water samples in or around the Coppermine River (Kugluktuk) and Freshwater Creek (Cambridge Bay) for analysis down south;
- Samples would be collected by local community members travelling by snow mobile, ATV, and/or boats; and
- Fuel would be purchased locally and any garbage created by the project would be collected and disposed of appropriately.

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](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Connecting Snow Melt to River Discharge in the Kitikmeot Region and Northwest Territories
- NIRB File No.: 17YN074
- Application No.: 125226

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Snow monitoring support letter*

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 DFO’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 8, 2018**.

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; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing 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 via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto: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](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Connecting Snow Melt to River Discharge in the Kitikmeot Region and Northwest Territories
- NIRB File No.: 17YN074
- Application No.: 125226

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or at [motokiak@nirb.ca](mailto:motokiak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak  
Junior Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

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

## **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. Fisheries and Oceans (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, December 15, 2017), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, December 18, 2017).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

#### **Water Use**

5. The Proponent shall ensure that water extraction from any fish-bearing waterbody is done with appropriate care and caution. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

#### **Waste Disposal**

6. The Proponent shall keep all garbage 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. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
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.

#### **Wildlife - General**

9. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
10. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
11. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
12. The Proponent shall not touch, feed or entice wildlife to approach by holding out or setting out decoys or any such devices, foodstuffs or bait of any kind.

13. 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**

14. 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.
15. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
16. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.

#### **Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance**

17. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
18. 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.

#### **Other**

19. 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.
20. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
21. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.