



NIRB File No.: 16DN063
NPC File No.: 148656

January 10, 2018

Tamara Van Dyck
Department of National Defence
180 Kent St., 14th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 0B6

Sent via email: tamara.vandyck@dcc-cdc.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Department of National Defence's "Operation NUNALIVUT 2018" project proposal

Dear Tamara Van Dyck:

On November 29, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Department of National Defence's (DND) "Operation NUNALIVUT 2018" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determination issued on November 12, 2016 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of a change in location of activities from Hall Beach to Cambridge Bay.

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 **16DN063**, 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 of the proposal as submitted the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on November 29, 2017 the NIRB requested that the Proponent provide the Board

with additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. The NIRB followed up with the Proponent on December 18, 2017 noting that the NIRB required additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On December 28, 2017 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Operation NUNALIVUT 2018” project is located within the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani regions, near the communities of Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay. The Proponent intends to conduct military exercises to enhance the Canadian Armed Forces’ (CAF) knowledge and capacity to operate in challenging environments, while allowing the CAF to demonstrate their ability to effectively respond to safety and security issues in the Arctic. The program is proposed to take place from February to March 2018. The scope of activities previously approved for these ongoing military exercises (NIRB File No. 16DN063) has been included within **Appendix A**.

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

- Mobilization of approximately 300 CAF personnel in Cambridge Bay and in Resolute Bay for military exercises;
 - Conducting military drills on land, on sea ice, underwater and in the air; Conduct live fire exercises on the sea ice as well as undertake patrols and diving operations near Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay;
 - Deployment of approximately 350 members of the 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (1stCRPG) to support military activities of the Canadian Army Platoon and Royal Canadian Navy dive team near the communities of Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay; Establishment of a Task Force Headquarters and patrol base in Resolute Bay consisting of approximately 20 members with an additional 40 support personnel;
- Use of military aircrafts (Globemaster and Hercules), including Twin Otters and a helicopter to support airborne military exercises, including transportation of personnel and equipment;
- Use of tracked and all-terrain military vehicles (BV206) and snowmobiles to support military exercises;
- Use of generators, compression chamber, and portable heaters for power generation, dive safety and heating;
- Temporary storage, transportation and use of the following fuels and hazardous materials:
 - 5,000 litres (L) and 820L of diesel at Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay, respectively;
 - 5,000L and 410L of gasoline at Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay, respectively;
 - 200L and 50L of engine oil at Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay, respectively;
 - 20L of Naphtha fuel for Coleman stoves and lanterns in Cambridge Bay;
- Use of approximately 1,000 cubic metres of water from community water plants in Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay for domestic purposes;

- Generation and management of wastes, including hazardous materials:
 - Grey water produced at Cambridge Bay and Canadian Armed Forces Arctic Training Centre in Resolute Bay to be disposed of via existing infrastructure;
 - Sewage to be collected and shipped south for proper disposal;
 - Combustible and non-combustible wastes to be collected and disposed of at the nearest settlement for proper disposal by contract;
 - Collection and shipment of hazardous wastes to larger urban centres for proper disposal by qualified operators; and
- Demobilization and removal of equipment and materials on completion of military exercises.

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: Operation NUNALIVUT 2018
- NIRB File No.: 16DN063
- Application No.: 125201

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Project Description*
- *Spill Response and Hazardous Material (Hamzat) Release 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 Department of National Defence's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 22, 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; 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: Operation NUNALIVUT 2018
- NIRB File No.: 16DN063
- Application No.: 125201

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or at motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Attachment: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

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

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal NIRB (File No. 16DN063), was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Planning Commission on November 12, 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 February 1, 2017 the NIRB issued a Nunavut Agreement 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the 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 Department of National Defence's (Proponent) original "Operation NUNALIVUT 2017" project was located within the Qikiqtani, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions, based out of Resolute Bay and Hall Beach with activities occurring near the communities of Hall Beach, Kugaaruk, Igloolik, and Resolute Bay. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct military exercises based out of Hall Beach and Resolute Bay to enhance the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) knowledge and capacity to operate in challenging environments, while allowing the CAF to demonstrate their ability to effectively respond to safety and security issues in the North. The activities were proposed to take place from February to March 2017.

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

- Mobilization of approximately 290 CAF personnel to each site;
- Support to the operations by approximately 175 personnel of the Canadian Ranger Patrol Groups from Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, Nauyasat, and Igloolik via ground and air transport;
- Establishment of a Task Force Headquarters in Hall Beach, including multiple temporary tents around site to support operations and personnel accommodations;
- Conducting patrols on land and on sea ice near Hall Beach;
- Conducting live fire exercise on the sea ice;
- Conducting dive operations near Resolute Bay by a 60 person Dive Team;
- Use of aircrafts including Twin Otters, Hercules and Globemaster and a helicopter to support military exercises;
- Use of land-based track vehicles and snowmobiles to support military exercises;
- Establishment and decommissioning of temporary camps to support operations, including dive operations, and patrol safety.
- Use of two (2) 5 kilowatt generators, one (1) compression chamber, portable heaters, and two (2) unmanned aerial vehicles;
- Temporary storage, transportation and use of the following fuels and hazardous materials:
 - 3,895 and 820 litres of diesel at Hall Beach and Resolute Bay, respectively;
 - 3,895 and 410 litres of gasoline at Hall Beach and Resolute Bay, respectively;
 - 200 litres and 50 litres of engine oil at Hall Beach and Resolute Bay, respectively;
 - 20 litres of Naptha fuel for Coleman stoves in Hall Beach;
- Consumption of water from existing municipal facilities in Resolute Bay and Hall Beach for domestic purposes;
- Generation and management of wastes:
 - Grey water and sewage to be disposed of at existing municipal facilities;

- Combustible and non-combustible wastes to be disposed of at approved waste disposal facilities in the nearest community; and
- Demobilization and removal of equipment and materials on completion of military exercises.