



**NIRB File No.: 18YN016**  
NPC File No.: 148653

April 11, 2018

C. J. Mundy  
University of Manitoba  
582 Wallace Bldg.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2

Sent via email: [cj.mundy@umanitoba.ca](mailto:cj.mundy@umanitoba.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for University of Manitoba's "Churchill Marine Observatory – Environmental Observing (CMO-EO) System" project proposal**

Dear C. J. Mundy:

On March 13, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen University of Manitoba's "Churchill Marine Observatory – Environmental Observing (CMO-EO) System" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan and the Keewatin 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 **18YN016** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On March 13, 2018 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. 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 March 21, 2018 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On April 9, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

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

The proposed “Churchill Marine Observatory – Environmental Observing (CMO-EO) System” project is located in Churchill, Manitoba, in the Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait within the Kivalliq and Qikiqtani regions, and in proximity to Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Nauyasat, Hall Beach, Igloodik, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, and Sanikiluaq. The Proponent intends to conduct research on detection, impact and mitigation of spills of oil and related contaminants in sea ice-covered waters and increase baseline knowledge of general oceanography. The program is proposed to take place from June 2018 to September 2025.

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

- An Oil-in-Sea-Ice Mesocosm with two (2) saltwater sub-pools in Churchill;
- An environmental observatory system consisting of the following:
  - Use of a 65 foot research vessel (MV William Kennedy)
  - Deployment of one (1) cabled oceanographic mooring in the Churchill estuary; four (4) in Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait; and one (1) at the southern end of Roes Welcome Sound;
  - Conducting coastal oceanographic sampling around Southampton Island and near Chesterfield Inlet
  - Collection of water samples;
  - Collection of zooplankton and fish;
  - Sampling of marine sediment and benthic organisms via a 24 foot zodiac;
  - Use of SCUBA divers to assess species composition;
  - Use of a remotely operated vehicle to obtain video measurements of the benthic environment;
  - Use of chemicals for preservation of samples;
  - Use of a vessel (CCGS Amundsen) to recover moorings; and
- Treatment of greywater and sewage onboard the vessels and disposal of combustible wastes at approved waste disposal facilities.

## 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: “Churchill Marine Observatory – Environmental Observing (CMO-EO) System”
- NIRB File No.: 18YN016
- Application No.: 125299

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 and Inuktitut*

- *Record of Consultation*
- *Map noting project location*

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 University of Manitoba's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **April 23, 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: "Churchill Marine Observatory – Environmental Observing (CMO-EO) System"
- NIRB File No.: 18YN016
- Application No.: 125299

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4616 or [kboaantwi@nirb.ca](mailto:kboaantwi@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kofi Boa-Antwi, M.Sc., R.P.Bio.  
Technical Advisor II  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:                    Distribution List  
                        Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
                        Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Attachments:      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. University of Manitoba (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 (NPC File No.: 148653) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, April 9, 2018).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

#### **Waste Disposal**

5. 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.

#### **Wildlife - General**

6. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
7. 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.
8. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
9. 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**

10. 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.
11. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.

12. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.
13. The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

#### **Ship-based Activities**

14. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals.
15. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a polar bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with polar bears should be avoided if possible.
16. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including waste water) or sediment into any marine waters, and shall manage wastes on board the vessel prior to final disposal at approved port facilities.
17. 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.

#### **Other**

18. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimatuqangit and information that can inform project activities.
19. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
20. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.