



NIRB File No.: 18YN021
NPC File No.: 148797

May 16, 2018

Jean-Francois Lamarre
Polar Knowledge Canada
1 Uvajuq Road
P.O. Box 2150
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Sent via email: jean-francois.lamarre@polar.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Polar Knowledge Canada's "Migratory and Breeding Ecology of Birds Facing Global Environmental Change" project proposal

Dear Jean-Francois Lamarre:

On March 23, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Polar Knowledge Canada's "Migratory and Breeding Ecology of Birds Facing Global Environmental Change" 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 **18YN021** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On March 23, 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. On April 25, 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 “Migratory and breeding Ecology of Birds Facing Global Environmental Change” project is located within the Kitikmeot region, within a 180 kilometres (km) radius of Cambridge Bay. The Proponent intends to conduct studies to monitor the reproduction and the migration of Arctic-nesting migratory birds including both predator and prey species, nesting habitats, breeding densities, population trends, and migration requirements. The program is proposed to take place from May to August 2018.

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

- Use of a helicopter to transport personnel and equipment to the study locations not accessible by ground with the establishment of temporary camps at these locations;
- Usage of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and/or snowmobiles for the closer sample locations along with use of local accommodations where required;
- Conduct surveys through the establishment of the following equipment/programs:
 - Installation of motion trigger cameras within nests with visits conducted at a minimum on a monthly basis to collect data. Cameras to be removed at end of season;
 - Establishment of temperature probes and logger within nests;
 - Installation of traps for various species;
 - Invertebrate collection for up to 3 months;
 - Birds including the American golden plover and the pectoral sandpiper for collection of blood, feather, and fecal samples along with banding on the nest. Approximately 15 American golden plover would be tagged with small satellite devices;
 - Small mammals via live trap (tagged) and snap trap (approximately 60 for collection);
 - Collection of feces along transects; and
 - Aerial photography via helicopter of snow geese for counting purposes.
- Potential monitoring and mapping of fox dens with installation of motion trigger cameras;
- Storage and use of up to 80 litres of fuel for camp purposes;
- Use of local water sources for domestic purposes;
- Disposal of grey water on land; and
- All wastes (combustible and non-combustible) to be collected at camp and stored as required prior to being brought back to Cambridge Bay for appropriate disposal;

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List:

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: Migratory and Breeding Ecology of Birds facing Global Environmental Change
- NIRB File No.: 18YN021
- Application No.: 125304

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Map showing research locations*

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 Polar Knowledge Canada's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 28, 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, 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: Migratory and Breeding Ecology of Birds facing Global Environmental Change
- NIRB File No.: 18YN021

- Application No.: 125304

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4619 or at kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard B.Sc., PAg
A/Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Karen Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service

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. Polar Knowledge 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 (NPC File No.: 148797) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, April 25, 2018 and subsequent emails April 30, 2018 and May 15, 2018).
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 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. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
8. Unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board, the Proponent shall locate all fuel 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.
9. 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.
10. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g., self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) when storing 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 when refueling equipment.

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 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.

Aircraft Flight Restrictions

16. The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife, and avoid flying directly over animals unless otherwise approved.
17. Unless otherwise approved, the Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum flight altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless except during landing, take-off or if there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife or migratory birds.
18. While relocating personnel and camps, 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.
19. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

20. 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.
21. 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

22. 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.

Temporary Camps and Land Use

23. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.
24. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

- 25. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
- 26. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state as practical as possible upon completion of field work.

Other

- 27. 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.
- 28. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
- 29. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.