



NIRB File No.: 18YN030
NPC File No.: 148835

May 17, 2018

Kristina Brown
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Institute of Ocean Sciences
9860 West Saanich Rd.
PO Box 6000
Sidney, BC V8L 4B2

Sent via email: kristina.anne.brown@gmail.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Monitoring Seasonal Environmental Change in Rivers of the Kitikmeot Region" project proposal

Dear Kristina Brown:

On April 25, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) "Monitoring Seasonal Environmental Change in Rivers of the Kitikmeot Region" 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 **18YN030** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On April 25, 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 May 14, 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 “Monitoring Seasonal Environmental Change in Rivers of the Kitikmeot Region” project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 250 to 325 kilometres (km) south to southwest from the community of Cambridge Bay. The Proponent intends to conduct in-situ monitoring of four (4) rivers [Tree River, Hood River, Burnside River, and Western River] to collect physical and biogeochemical parameters characteristics of these rivers. The program is proposed to take place from July to September 2018 and 2019.

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

- Installation of autonomous observational systems (moorings) at each river mouth via a river-bottom anchor and a shoreline fixed with a metal stake;
- Continuous in-situ measurements to include:
 - Physical parameters: temperature, conductivity, water level;
 - Biogeochemical parameters, including dissolved oxygen content, turbidity (cloudiness), and coloured dissolved organic material (CDOM) concentration.
- Collection of small water samples at each river for geochemical parameter determination;
- Removal of moorings at the end of each season following approximately two (2) months of measurements by a small aluminum skiff launched from RV *Martin Bergmann* (NIRB File No.: 17YN002);
- Daily transport of personnel and equipment to each site via float plane;
- Use of up to 488 litres (L) of fuel for refueling purposes;
- Removal of wastes following deployment and recovery of moorings; and
- Use of accommodations and facilities in Cambridge Bay for up to three (3) personnel.

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: Monitoring Seasonal Environmental Change in Rivers of the Kitikmeot Region
- NIRB File No.: 18YN030
- Application No.: 125345

The documents received include:

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

- *Community Benefits*
- *Project Phases*

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 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: Monitoring Seasonal Environmental Change in Rivers of the Kitikmeot Region
- NIRB File No.: 18YN030
- Application No.: 125345

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 857-4829 or at sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho, M.Sc., EP
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Moshá Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)
Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut 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 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.: 148835, and the NIRB (Online Application Form, May 14, 2018).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water Use

5. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course 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. 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.
9. 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 refuelling equipment.
10. 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

11. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.

12. 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.
13. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
14. 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

15. 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.
16. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
17. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.
18. The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

Aircraft Flight Restrictions

19. The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife, and avoid flying directly over animals.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

23. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
24. 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

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