



NIRB File No.: 18YN040

NPC File No.: 148838

July 13, 2018

Nicole Trenholm
University of Maryland Baltimore County
990 Awald Rd
Annapolis MD 21403 USA

Sent via email: nicolet3@umbc.edu

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Maryland Baltimore County's "Croker Bay Study and NW Passage Transit to Gjoa Haven" project proposal

Dear Nicole Trenholm:

On June 19, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen University of Maryland Baltimore County's (UMBC) "Croker Bay Study and NW Passage Transit to Gjoa Haven" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin 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 s. 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 **18YN040** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On June 19, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 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 July 12, 2018 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On July 13, 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 “Croker Bay Study and NW Passage Transit to Gjoa Haven” project would sail the Northwest Passage traversing Nunavut waters in both the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot regions. The Proponent intends to collect ocean water samples and survey observations regarding the ice and ocean physical and environmental conditions in Croker Bay and the Northwest Passage. The program is proposed to take place from July to August 2018.

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

- Collection of ocean water samples using an RBR CTD, data logger to measure conductivity, temperature, pressure (depth) and salinity in Croker Bay and the Northwest Passage; and
- Transport and use of facilities and accommodations on a 39 foot sailboat, *Toboggan*.

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 accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125364

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*
- *Map of proposed sailing route.*

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 Maryland Baltimore Country’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 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, 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/project/125364.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4609 or at johokannoak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Jaida Ohokannoak
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
 Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
 Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

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 Maryland Baltimore County's (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.: 148838), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, July 13, 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 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.
10. 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

11. 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.

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

Ship-based Activities

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. The Proponent shall ensure that all passengers are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat protection. This should include pre-landing briefings on wildlife sensitivities and potential hazards, proper wildlife viewing techniques and safety practices.
17. While on the vessel, the Proponent shall limit viewing time of each concentration of marine mammals to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes in order to minimize disturbance.
18. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels ahead of the path being traveled by mobile whales and waiting for the whales to pass is also prohibited.
19. 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.
20. The Proponent shall ensure that visitation of cliffs used by nesting and breeding birds is restricted to small crafts or zodiacs only, and then only during morning and early afternoon hours. Noise should be kept to a minimum when visiting these bird colonies.
21. The Proponent shall ensure that all passengers are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include pre-landing briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts, and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.
22. The Proponent should use existing trails where possible during project activities on land.
23. The Proponent is strongly advised to provide sufficient advance notice communities where a landing is planned as part of project activities.

Other

24. 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.
25. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.

26. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.