



NIRB File No.: 18YN051
NPC File No.: 148949

January 16, 2019

Jean-Baptiste Koehl
University of Oslo
Skogåsvegen 33
Tromsø Troms 9011 Norway

Sent via email: jean-baptiste.koehl@uit.no.

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Oslo’s “Carboniferous Basins in Svalbard, Canada and the Barents Sea (CBS2)” Project Proposal

Dear Jean-Baptiste Koehl:

On December 7, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen University of Oslo’s “Carboniferous Basins in Svalbard, Canada and the Barents Sea (CBS2)” 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 **18YN051** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On December 7, 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 December 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 January 14, 2019 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Carboniferous Basins in Svalbard, Canada and the Barents Sea (CBS2)” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, approximately 250 kilometres (km) north from Resolute Bay. The Proponent intends to study and collect of 360-325-million-year-old sedimentary rocks in North West Devon Island to investigate the context of deposition of the rocks and compare them to analogous rocks in Svalbard and the Barents Sea (Norway). The program is proposed to take place from July to August 2019.

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

- Use of Twin Otter to transport two (2) personnel from Resolute Bay to Grinnell Peninsula and/or Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP) airstrip;
- Use of helicopter to transport 2 personnel from the Twin Otter landing site to the temporary camp site;
- Establishment of temporary camp site with the use of three (3) tents;
- Use of a hammer and chisel for the collection of approximately 70 small rocks;
- Daily travel by foot from temporary camp site to outcrops;
- Transportation, storage, and approximate use of 34 litres (L) of fuel for cooking and burning waste;
- Sewage and combustible wastes would be burned; unburned and non-combustible waste would be brought back to Resolute Bay; and
- Greywater would be buried.

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/125431.

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*
- *Maps noting research sites and temporary camp.*

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 Oslo project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 28, 2019**.

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/125431.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-5627 or at tmaksagak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Talia Maksagak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Joe Adla Kunuk, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Sean Joseph, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Government of Nunavut
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

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 Oslo (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 148949), and to the NIRB (Online Application Form, January 14, 2019)
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water Use

4. 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/Incineration

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.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

6. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
7. Unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board, the Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials 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.
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, at all fuel storage sites 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 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.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

23. 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.
24. 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.

Temporary Camps and Land Use

25. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.
26. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of lakes or streams.

27. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

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

29. 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

30. 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.

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

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