



NIRB File No.: 19YN018
NPC File No.: 149068

May 3, 2019

Connie Baines
Hamlet of Gjoa Haven
P.O. Box 200
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Sent via email: edogjoa@qiniq.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Hamlet of Gjoa Haven's "Sea-ice monitoring to support resilient transportation infrastructure, community economic development and youth training in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, Nunavut" Project Proposal

Dear Connie Baines:

On March 18, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Hamlet of Gjoa Haven's "Sea-ice monitoring to support resilient transportation infrastructure, community economic development and youth training in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, Nunavut" 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 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 **19YN018**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On March 18, 2019 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 March 28, 2019 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On April 26, 2019 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

Additional information was provided to the NIRB by the Proponent on May 3rd with respect to the application.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Sea-ice monitoring to support resilient transportation infrastructure, community economic development and youth training in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, Nunavut” Project is located within the Kitikmeot Region, around the communities of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. The Proponent intends to conduct sea-ice monitoring along community travel routes between Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak using both Inuit knowledge and sensor data, to provide and improved understanding of how ice travel routes are being impacted by climate change. The program is proposed to take place from March 2019 to March 2022.

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

- Use of two (2) snowmobiles and qamutiks to transport research equipment and six (6) personnel to project sites from Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak;
- Use of power-drill to operate ice augers;
- Deployment and retrieval (at the end of each season) of four (4) stationary sea-ice sensors (SmartBUOY) to monitor ice thickness;
- Use of mobile sea-ice sensors (SmartQAMUTIK) to generate ice thickness measurements as it is towed behind snowmobiles;
- Establishment of operational space and community data sharing portal;
- Collection of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of local sea-ice conditions and use;
- Use and storage of 3,000 litres (L) of fuel to operate ice augers and for refueling of snowmobiles;
- All waste generated would be brought back to Gjoa Haven or Taloyoak for proper disposal;
- Accommodations would be sourced locally in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak; and
- Training of community members in both Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak to conduct the research.

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/125455.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting project locations*
- *SmartICE's Emergency Management Plan*
- *Supplemental Information*
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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 Hamlet of Gjoa Haven project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 13, 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/125455.

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

Sincerely,



Talia Maksagak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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. Hamlet of Gjoa Haven (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.: 149068) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, April 26, 2019)
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Waste Disposal

4. 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

5. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
6. 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.
7. 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

8. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
9. 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.
10. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
11. 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

12. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone¹ appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.
13. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
14. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

15. 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.
16. 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.

Land Use

17. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area including surface ice is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

18. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
19. The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the end of each field season and/or upon abandonment of site.

Other

20. 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.
21. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
22. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

¹ Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb.