



NIRB File No.: 19AN022
NPC File No.: 149165

June 28, 2019

Lisa Pirie-Dominix
Nunavut Regional Office
Canadian Wildlife Services
P.O. Box 1870
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: lisa.pirie-dominix@canada.ca; ec.nupermisscf-cwspermitnu.ec@canada.ca;
julia.prokopick@canada.ca; jennie.rausch@canada.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area Clean-up" Project Proposal

Dear Lisa Pirie-Dominix:

On June 11, 2019 the NIRB received a referral to screen for Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)'s "Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area Clean-up" 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 **19AN033** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted on June 11, 2019 by the Proponent, the NIRB determined that the proposal included activities that were insufficiently related to the purpose of the project and as such were a separate project that should be excluded from the proposed project. On June 17, 2019 the NIRB provided an opportunity for the Proponent to review the exclusion within the scope of activities and requested that the Proponent submit a new application excluding the unrelated activities if in agreement to the exclusion. On June 21, 2019 the NIRB received the revised application and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area Clean-up” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region within the Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area, approximately 120 kilometres (km) southeast from Grise Fiord. The Proponent intends to conduct clean-up of the abandoned North Water Research Station established in the 1960s. 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:

- Transportation of personal to and from site via Twin Otter;
- Establishment of a temporary 6-person base camp;
- Use of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and zodiac to access sites around the island;
- Use of propane and naphtha for cooking;
- Use of gasoline for ATV and zodiac outboard motor;
- Use of water from local sources for domestic purposes;
- Disposal of greywater and human waste by covering in lime and burial;
- Dismantling of research station and burning of non-toxic material, if possible;
- Removal of approximately 150+ empty fuel drums, propane tanks, and other debris to Resolute Bay by Twin Otter; and
- Removal of packaged fuel drums and debris from Resolute Bay by sealift.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

In respect of the scope as proposed by the Proponent on June 11, 2019, as provided for under s. 86(1)(b) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has excluded works or activities from the scope of the project assessed, as these specified works or activities were found to not be sufficiently related to the project to be included within the scope of the project. Following consultation with the Proponent, the following works/activities were excluded from the scope of the project as resubmitted by the Proponent on June 21, 2019:

- Collection of rock samples;
- Geological mapping of Coburg Island; and
- Travel by ATV and Zodiac for mapping and sample collecting.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at <http://www.nirb.ca/project/125474>.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Revised NIRB Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and French*
- *Images of the clean-up area*

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 ECCC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 8, 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 <http://www.nirb.ca/project/125474>.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-983-4617 or kmorrison@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

(original signed by:)

Keith Morrison
Technical Advisor II
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
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Steven Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
SAO of Resolute Bay

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. Environment and Climate Change 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.: 149165), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 21, 2019).
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.
6. 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

7. 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.
8. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes daily, and remove the ash from incineration activities and non-combustible wastes from the project site to an approved facility for disposal.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that no waste oil/grease is incinerated on site.
10. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including waste water) or sediment into any marine waters.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

11. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
12. 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.

13. 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.
14. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g., self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) when storing barreled fuel and chemicals at all locations.
15. 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.
16. 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

17. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
18. 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.
19. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
20. 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.
21. 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

22. 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.
23. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
24. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.
25. The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

Aircraft Flight Restrictions

26. The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife, and avoid flying directly over animals.

27. 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.
28. 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.
29. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
30. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

Ground Disturbance

31. 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

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

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

34. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
35. 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

36. 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.
37. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
38. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.