



NIRB File No.: 19XN042
NPC File No.: 149184
TC File No.: 2018-642

October 23, 2019

Kailey Wright
Northern Energy Capital Inc.
7209 7th Ave
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1R8

Sent via email: kwright@northernenergycapital.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Northern Energy Capital Inc.'s "Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake Meteorological Towers" project proposal

Dear Kailey Wright:

On September 5, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Northern Energy Capital Inc. (NEC)'s "Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake Meteorological Towers" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin 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 **19XN042**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On September 9, 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 sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening.

On September 18, 2019 the NIRB released a formal correspondence, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. The NIRB followed up on numerous occasions via email (October 2, 2019) and a second formal letter (October 7, 2019) requesting an update on when the information would be provided. On October 11, 2019 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake Meteorological Towers” project is located within the Kivalliq region, within the municipal boundaries of Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake. The Proponent intends to conduct research to measure the wind and solar energy potential of both communities. The program is proposed to take place from March 2020 to September 2022.

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

- Installation of two (2) meteorological towers, one (1) each in Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet;
 - Power to be supplied by solar cells with a backup diesel generator;
 - Use of approximately fifty (50) gallons of diesel at each site for backup power generator;
- Use of a rock drill, pickup truck, and mini-excavator for site and foundation preparation; and
- Potential use of propane heaters.

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 <http://www.nirb.ca/project/125485>.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Application and Conformity Determination*
- *NIRB Online Application*
- *Community and Government Services Land Use Permit*
- *Baker Lake Land Use Approval*
- *Nav Canada Letter to Proponent*
- *Transport Canada Permit*
- *Transport Canada Aeronautical Assessment Form*
- *Executive Brief on Rankin Inlet Clean Energy*
- *Rankin Inlet Meteorological Tower Information*

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 NEC’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **November 4, 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/125485>.

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

Sincerely,



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
Transport Canada
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services
Mosha Cote, Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Research Institute
Hamlet of Baker Lake
Hamlet of Rankin Inlet

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. Northern Energy Capital (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.: 149184) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, October 11, 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 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.
7. 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.
8. 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

9. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
10. 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.
11. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
12. 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

13. The Proponent shall avoid conducting land clearing activities during the migratory bird season.

14. 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.
15. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.

Caribou and Muskox Disturbance

16. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration.
17. 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.
18. The Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou or muskox 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.

Ground Disturbance

19. 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.

Heritage Sites

20. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

21. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
22. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
23. 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

24. 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.
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.

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.