



NIRB File No.: 19TN048
NPC File No.: 149251

January 7, 2019

Nansen Weber
Canadian Arctic Holidays
PO 1252 STN MAIN
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N9

Sent via email: nansen@arcticwatch.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Canadian Arctic Holidays' "Clyde River Land Use Permit" project proposal

Dear Nansen Weber:

On December 10, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Canadian Arctic Holidays' (CAH) "Clyde River Land Use Permit" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (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 **19TN048** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On December 10, 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.

Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted on December 17, 2019 by the Proponent, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on December 18, 2019 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On December 19, 2019 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Clyde River Land Use Permit” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 55 kilometres (km) northwest from Clyde River. The Proponent intends to conduct a ski touring, cat skiing and heli-skiing operation. The program is proposed to take place from March 22, 2020 to May 10, 2020.

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

- Establishment of a temporary camp of six (6) Pacific Geodestic Domes for 20 personnel;
- Use of helicopter, snow mobile and snow cat to transport gear and clientele;
- Use of 180 gallons gasoline, 360 gallons aviation fuel, and 360 gallons diesel;
- Collection of two (2) m³ of water daily from Ayr Lake with manual ice auger and bucket;
- Transportation out of camp garbage and disposal in Clyde River;
- Dumping of frozen human waste several kilometers away from camp; and
 - Separation of toilet paper and disposal in Clyde River municipal dump.

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/125495.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Application*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *CAH Application*
- *GN Outfitters Licence*
- *Letter to Clyde River Council Members*
- *Municipality of Clyde River Motion*

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 CAH’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 17, 2020**.

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/125495.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4612 or ekoide@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Emily Koide
Technical Advisor I
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
Natalie O'Grady, Government of Nunavut, Economic Development and Transportation
Amy Brown, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Jody Kusugak, Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Airport Division
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Tineka Simmons, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Agnes Simonfalvy, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission
Hamlet of Clyde River

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. Canadian Arctic Holidays (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.: 149251), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, December 17, 2019; additional information requested submitted on December 19, 2019).
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water Use

4. 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.
5. 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

6. 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

7. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
8. 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 unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.

12. 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

13. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
14. 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.
15. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
16. 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

17. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
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 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.
23. 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.

Caribou Disturbance

24. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration.
25. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of caribou, until the caribou have passed or left the area.

26. 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

27. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of lakes or streams.
28. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Heritage Sites

29. 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.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

30. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
31. 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

32. 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.
33. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
34. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.