



NIRB File No.: 19YN044
NPC File No.: 149242

January 8, 2020

Michelle Tseng
University of British Columbia
3156-6270 University Blvd
Vancouver, BC V6R 2A5

Sent via email: mtseng@zoology.ubc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for the University of British Columbia's "The effect of warming on aquatic invertebrates in the Kitikmeot" Project Proposal

Dear Michelle Tseng:

On October 25, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen the University of British Columbia's (UBC) "The effect of warming on aquatic invertebrates in the Kitikmeot" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (the 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 **19YN044**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On October 25, 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 November 4, 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. On November 25, 2019 the NIRB received information from the Proponent, and 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 November 26, 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 23, 2019 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “The effect of warming on aquatic invertebrates in the Kitikmeot” project is located in the Kitikmeot region, within approximately 25 kilometres (km) of Cambridge Bay. The Proponent intends to collect live zooplankton samples from up to ten (10) freshwater lakes or ponds, in order to study the effects of increasing water temperatures on the health of zooplankton. The program is proposed to take place from in July 2020.

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

- Transport of up to three (3) persons by all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or motor vehicle to access sampling locations;
- Use of inflatable boat to access lake for sampling activities;
- Undertake sampling and research activities using a hand-held sieve or tow-net to collect zooplankton from lakes; and
- Use of facilities at the CHARS research station in Cambridge Bay for accommodations, water supply, and waste disposal.

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/125492.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral;*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form;*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuinnaqtun;*
- *Supplemental Supporting Information document.*

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 UBC’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 20, 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/125492.

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 Inuinnaqtun)
Comment Forms (English and Inuinnaqtun)

cc: Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

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. The University of British Columbia (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.: 149242) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, November 25, 2019, and December 23, 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.

Wildlife - General

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

10. 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.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

11. 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.

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.

Other

12. 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.
13. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
14. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.