



NIRB File No. : 19TN048 - Proponent request for response to comments

January 30th 2020

Weber Arctic's first trip to Clyde River to investigate the possibility of heli-skiing was in 2015. Since that time, we have been in constant communications with the hamlet of Clyde River and community members. All of our intentions and business operational plans have been put to the

council. Last season, 2019 was our first season operating the camp on Ayr Lake. Previously to that we had booked out the entire Naujaaraaluit Hotel for our guests. We are unable to continue to use the hotels, as it is too small, not frequently available and too far from the skiing terrain. As we started and expanded our operation, we have continued to reach out to the mayor and community members regarding our future plans. Last season with our new camp on Ayr Lake, we encouraged many local residents to visit our operation during the month of April/May. We only received one visitor, whom we happily showed around the camp.

The last telephone communication was with Clyde River mayor during the week of Jan 7th 2020. Nansen Weber spoke with Jerry Natanine to confirm that the town council had received the letter (same letter attached to the NIRB application) outlining our operational plans for spring 2020. Any concerns from council members should be addressed to Nansen, we would happily clarify or discuss any uncertainties. Jerry Natanine was supportive of the project with a few concerns waiting to be addressed by himself and the council. Jerry suggested, that all the correspondence and questions be registered through NIRB.

In the last two weeks, Weber Arctic has also been in contact with James Arreak, Chief Administrative Officer. We are reaching out to James regarding hiring a Clyde River resident for the position of snow cat driver for our operation. This season this person would be training with our current driver. To date, we have not received any suggestions.

We have also sent in a preliminary lands application to Gina Paniloo from the Lands Office. This is regarding building a garage in Clyde River to store and maintain our snow-cat and snow machines. Currently our operational season is still very short (3 weeks) and does not require year-round positions. As for ski guide positions, we are unable to hire local residents. Ski guiding requires a special avalanche/ski training certification. Our product is still relatively new on the market, it is only a one-month season, however the product is continuing to gain traction in high-end adventure tourism. Weber Arctic is committed to continuing to grow the product and invest in the community. Please keep in mind we will never bring large numbers of tourists to Clyde River and should not be compared to a large cruise ship company. Our tourist groups are typically 4 to 12 people per week. We run a small high-end operation.

Inevitably, as our product grows the investment in the community will follow and job opportunities for local residents will rise. Just this past winter, we paid a local resident to fix our snow machine. We are hiring someone to check our current gear in our sea containers, we hired people to fix the snow-cat cover and deal with our sea lift materials. Every season, we hire local

residents for fuel runs, laundry service, mechanical services, guiding tours on the ice, we rent snow-machines and dog sleds. We purchased fish, art & crafts, rent hotel rooms at the Naujaaraaluit and cultural center. At the end of each season, we donate a substantial amount of food to the community. It was noted we donated the second largest contribution after Baffin Land.

Having spent the last thirty years operating in Nunavut, we are aware of the Arctic's fragile ecosystem. In all our operations we strive to have positive impact on ecosystem. At our current location on Ayr Lake, we are located on a glacial moraine. The area is not favourable habitat for caribou or other mammals. In the last two seasons of flying a helicopter in the area, we only spotted the occasional polar bear walking down the lake out towards the ocean. We have seen minimal birds; as we operate in the spring and only ptarmigan and snow buntings have been viewed. To our knowledge, the area is not a traditional hunting or fishing location. The council has mentioned that Ayr Lake is a significance source of fresh water for the area. Therefore we are taking all measures not to contaminate the water source. We hand-bucket water for drinking. All garbage is transported back to the community. Fuel is stored with containment; we have fuel spill kits at our disposal. Our bathrooms have containment; the human waste is not dumped into the lake but several kilometers inland on the glacier moraine (toilet paper separated and bought back to the town dump). Kitchen grey water is dumped more than 30 meters from the water (as per Environment Canada regulations). We are open to further suggestions and addressing concerns the NIRB review board and community might have regarding our environmental footprint.

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