

February 25, 2020

Sarah Rahmer  
Department of National Defence  
Defence Construction Canada  
180 Kent St., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1P 0B6

Sent via email: [Sarah.Rahmer@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Rahmer@forces.gc.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for the Department of National Defence’s “Replacement of Buoys for ICE-PPR” Project Proposal**

Dear Sarah Rahmer:

On November 1, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Department of National Defence’s (DND) “Replacement of Buoys for ICE-PPR” 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 **19YN045**.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On December 2, 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 December 18, 2019 the NIRB released a formal letter requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. The online application was submitted to the NIRB on February 4, 2020.

Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted on February 4, 2020 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 February 18, 2020 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On February 20, 2020 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### ***Project Scope:***

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125497](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125497).

<b>Project:</b>	Replacement of Buoys for ICE-PPR
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani (North Baffin)
<b>Location:</b>	Northwest of Ellesmere Island
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Approximately 580 to 645 kilometres (km) northwest from Grise Fiord
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to airdrop buoys on to the ice to monitor environmental conditions and track ice movement.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	March 2020 with buoys to remain until June 2025

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

- Airdrop of three (3) ice tracker buoys from Royal Canadian Air Force C130 Hercules or CC138 Twin Otter;
- Flight below 300 meters (1000 feet) for approximately 15 minutes per buoy drop; and
- Basing of aircraft out of Resolute Bay.

### ***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 can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125497](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125497) and include:

- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *Commission Conformity Determination and Screening Referral*
- *NIRB's Online Application*
- *Final Project Description (including maps)*

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 DND's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 6, 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](mailto: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/125497](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125497).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-983-4617 or [kmorrison@nirb.ca](mailto: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  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Tracie McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Hamlet of Grise Fiord  
Hamlet 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. The Department of National Defense (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.: 149189) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, February 3, 2020; Final Project Description, February 20,2020).
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

### **Wildlife – General**

4. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
5. 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.

### **Aircraft Flight Restrictions**

6. The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife, and avoid flying directly over animals.
7. 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.

### **Other**

8. 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.