



NIRB File No.: 15AN029

NPC File No.: 149294

Associated NPC File Nos.: 148266 and 149008

March 6, 2020

Kristyn Thoburn
Arctic Kingdom, Inc.
P.O. Box 6117
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: permits@arctickingdom.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Arctic Kingdom's "Arctic Kingdom Floe Edge Camp Day Trips - 2020" Project Proposal

Dear Kristyn Thoburn:

On February 26, 2020 the NIRB received a referral to screen Arctic Kingdom's "Arctic Kingdom Floe Edge Camp Day Trips - 2020" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determinations issued on May 21, 2015, June 7, 2016, and January 15, 2019 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the addition of a landing and visit to a new location (Cobourg Island) near the community of Grise Fiord.

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 section 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. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **15AN029**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in [Appendix A](#).

INFORMATION REQUEST

On February 26, 2020 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 the same day, the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The “Pristine Seas Film Project” activities as previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 15AN029.) included several expeditions to Greenland and Canada to film Arctic wildlife and the traditional way of life of the Inuit. A complete description of the scope of activities previously approved has been included within [Appendix A](#).

Arctic Kingdom is currently proposing the “Arctic Kingdom Floe Edge Camp Day Trips - 2020” project which would be located in the same area as previously approved and would be located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, approximately 200 kilometres (km) northeast from Arctic Bay, 110 km southeast from Grise Fiord, with some of the tourism activities to occur within both the Sirmilik National Park and the Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area. The Proponent intends to amend the scope of previously approved activities to setup a temporary base camp at a new location, to visit the Sirmilik National Park and the Coburg Island in order to continue its tourism activities. The current program is proposed to take place from May to June 2020.

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

- Setup and removal of a temporary base camp on ice near a floe edge in Lancaster Sound to support Arctic Kingdom's seasonal tourist expeditions:
 - Camp to support up to 25 people at a time;
 - Camp to include sleeping tents, work tents, dining and kitchen shelter tents;
- Tourist activities to include:
 - Visits to the floe edge in Lancaster Sound within the proposed Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area;
 - Sightseeing, and wildlife watching;
 - Photography and filming surrounding areas;
 - Hiking, fishing, and flightseeing;
- Use of two (2) helicopters and a twin otter aircraft for transportation of staff and visitors;
- Use of aircrafts for sightseeing purposes and potential visits to other sites within Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary (within the Sirmilik National Park) and on Coburg Island (within the Nirjutiqarvik Wildlife National Area) for short visits;
- Use of snowmobiles to transport personnel and equipment to facilitate tourist activities;
- Hiring of local personnel as guides, bear monitors and other personnel as needed;
- Transportation, storage and use of fuel (gasoline, aviation fuel, diesel) and propane;
- Use of snow and ice for domestic purposes;
- Production of human and grey waste water; and;

- Removal of wastes (sewage and garbage) for proper 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; however, the NIRB notes that some project activities are expected to occur within both the Sirmilik National Park and the Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area, and the above scope includes the entire project activities. 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/125511.

The documents received include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination and Screening Referral*
- *Commission Questionnaire and Application*
- *NIRB Online Application*
- *Arctic Kingdom Wildlife Policies – Code of Ethics & Safety*
- *Canadian Wildlife Services Guidelines for Visiting Seabird Colonies in Canada; submitted by Arctic Kingdom*

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 Arctic Kingdom's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 16, 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.

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/125511.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Sebastian Charge, Government of Nunavut, Department of Economic Development & Transportation
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 15AN029), was received by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) from the Nunavut Planning Commission. On February 26, 2020 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file.

Arctic Kingdom's (Proponent) original "Pristine Seas Film Project" project was located in the Qikiqtani region (north Baffin), near the community of Pond Inlet. The Proponent intended to conduct several expeditions to Greenland and Canada to film Arctic wildlife and the traditional way of life of the Inuit. The program was proposed to take place from June to July 2015.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Filming of Arctic wildlife, the traditional way of life of Inuit and natural history; and to record Inuit stories and opinions on the ongoing environmental changes.
- Filming to be conducted topside from the land, underwater and from air;
- Use of helicopter and single otter plane to transport personnel and equipment to and from camp facility;
- Use of helicopter and single otter plane for location scouting and aerial filming;
- Use of twin otter to transport equipment and fuel to camp facility;
- Use of snowmobiles and ATV's to transport personnel and equipment to film locations on land;
- Use of zodiac to transport personnel and equipment to film locations on water;
- Setup of temporary camp land on the northwest shore of Navy Board Inlet, for 22 people to support filming activities including sleeping tents, work tents, dining and kitchen shelter tents;
- Storage and use of fuel and propane;
- Use of water for domestic purposes;
- Production of human and grey water waste; and,
- Removal of wastes (sewage and garbage) for disposal.

Additional authorization, extension and amendment requests associated with the "Pristine Seas Film Project" have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (File No. 15AN029).

On August 8, 2016, after receiving an application for modified activities, the NIRB issued *new* terms and conditions associated with Arctic Kingdom Inc.'s "Navy Board Tourist Camp" project as per s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*. The Proponent intended to conduct private tourist expeditions based from a temporary camp located on the northwest shore of Navy Board Inlet in Lancaster Sound. The was proposed to take place on an annual basis during June and July. The following is a summary of the scope of the activities and components associated with the June 7, 2016 tourism application included:

- Setup and removal of temporary base camp on the northwest shore of Navy Board Inlet on an annual basis

- Camp to support up to 30 people at a time;
- Camp to include sleeping tents, work tents, dining and kitchen shelter tents;
- Use of helicopter, single otter plane and/or twin otter plane for location scouting, and transport personnel and equipment to and from camp facility;
- Use of aircraft for sightseeing purposes and potential visits to other sites on Devon, Cornwallis, Somerset Islands, Pond and Admiralty Inlets, and the Brodeur Peninsula;
- Use of snowmobiles, ATVs and a zodiac to transport personnel and equipment to facilitate sightseeing, wildlife watching, photography, filming, hiking, fishing, snorkeling, scuba diving, flightseeing, and other tourist activities;
- Potential visits to cultural and historical site in the vicinity of the base camp;
- Hiring of local personnel as guides, bear monitors and other personnel as needed;
- Storage and use of fuel (approximately 250 litres (L) gasoline, 220 L aviation fuel, 220 L diesel) and propane (approximately 90 L);
- Use of water for domestic purposes;
- Production of human and grey water waste; and,
- Removal of wastes (sewage and garbage) on a weekly basis for proper disposal.