



NIRB File No.: 20YN007

Associated NIRB File No.: 06AN026

NPC File No.: 149317

Associated NPC File Nos.: 148225 and 148512

April 15, 2020

Holly Hennin
Environment and Climate Change Canada
1125 Colonel By Dr.
Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6

Sent via email: holly.hennin@canada.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Coastal Surveys of Common Eider Nesting Islands in the Belcher Island Archipelago, Nunavut" Project Proposal

Dear Holly Hennin:

On March 5, 2020 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) "Coastal Surveys of Common Eider Nesting Islands in the Belcher Island Archipelago, Nunavut" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (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 **20YN007**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On March 5, 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 March 13, 2020 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 March 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/125512.

Project:	Coastal Surveys of Common Eider Nesting Islands in the Belcher Island Archipelago, Nunavut				
Region:	Qikiqtani (South Baffin)				
Location:	Belcher Island Archipelago				
Closest Community:	Sanikiluaq	Distance (approximate)	Within the community boundaries and up to 125 kilometres (km)	Direction	North
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct population surveys for common eiders in Belcher Island Archipelago, including the Sleeper Islands in order to determine potential ecological changes in colony distributions and sizes.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	June to September, 2020				

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

- Conduct surveys of common eider nests on nesting islands around Sanikiluaq;
- Collect information on potential nest predators;
- Opportunistic collection of polar bear feces and any carcasses or parts of birds found for disease analysis;
- Use of boats to access study locations;
- Setup and removal of temporary camps when conducting surveys outside the community of Sanikiluaq;
 - One (1) camp to be located roughly 100 km south of Sanikiluaq and one (1) camp to be located on Sleeper Island;
 - Production of human and greywater waste;
 - Removal of wastes for proper disposal; and
 - Use of water for domestic purposes.
- Use of 200 litres (L) of gasoline for refueling of boats and generators and 20 L of Naptha for camp stoves;
- Use of accommodations and facilities within the community of Sanikiluaq.

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/125512 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination and Screening Referral*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB Online Application*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*
- *Project Description*
- *Canadian Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Scientific Permit Application*
- *Nunavut Water Board Application for Approval for the Use of Water or Deposit of Waste Without a Licence*

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 ECCC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **April 27, 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/125512.

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: *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
Stephen Williamson-Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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. Environment and Climate Change Canada (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.: 149317), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, March 20, 2020).
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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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

11. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
12. 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.
13. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
14. 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.

Ground Disturbance and Land Use

15. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Temporary Camps

16. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

17. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
18. 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

19. 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.
20. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
21. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.