



NIRB File No.: 20YN018
NPC File No.: 149365

July 2, 2020

Jérôme Comte
Institute National de la Recherche Scientifique
490 rue de la couronne
Québec, QC G1K 9A9

Sent via email: jerome.comte@inrs.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for the Institute National de la Recherche Scientifique's "Access to Safe Drinking Water in a Changing Arctic" Project Proposal

Dear Jérôme Comte:

On May 27, 2020 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Institute National de la Recherche Scientifique's (INRS) "Access to Safe Drinking Water in a Changing Arctic" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan and noting that part of the proposal is located in a portion of Nunavut without a 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 **20YN018**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On May 27, 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 June 5, 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 June 16, 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/125539.

Project:	Access to Safe Drinking Water in a Changing Arctic
Region:	Qikiqtani and Kitikmeot
Location:	Within hamlet boundaries
Closest Community:	Cambridge Bay, Resolute Bay, and Pond Inlet
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct sampling and analysis of community drinking water for risks caused by permafrost thawing using a community-based participatory water quality sampling program.
Project Proposed Timeline:	September 2020 to March 2023

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

- Collecting water samples from community water sources, water treatment plants, holding tanks (such as delivery tanks) and taps (public and houses);
- Identifying and testing other water sources based on community interest;
- Evaluating water quality with field tests and laboratory analysis;
- Use of all-terrain vehicles or trucks to access sampling sites;
- Use of vehicle fuel from community sources;
- Removal of combustible wastes; and
- Work with communities to conduct a community-based participatory water quality sampling program.

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/125539 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination and Screening Referral*
- *Commission Application*
- *Commission Questionnaire*
- *NIRB Online Application*
- *NIRB Non-Technical Summary in English, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and French*
- *Nunavut Research Institute Research Objectives and Research Summary*

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 INRS's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 13, 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/125539.

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 (6) Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)
Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)

cc: Distribution List
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Hamlet of Pond Inlet
Hamlet of Resolute Bay
Hamlet of Cambridge 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. Institute national de la Recherche Scientifique (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 149365), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 16, 2020). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Waste Management

6. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Wildlife – General

7. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
8. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
9. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

10. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the

Avoidance Guidelines shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.

11. 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.

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.

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.