



NIRB File No.: 21YN006
NPC File No.: 149475

April 23, 2021

Jennifer Provencher
Environment and Climate Change Canada
NWRC C/O Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

Sent via email: jennifer.provencher@canada.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Contaminants in Seabirds in the Baffin Bay Davis Strait Region" Project Proposal

Dear Jennifer Provencher:

On February 10, 2021, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Environment and Climate Change Canada's (the Proponent) "Contaminants in Seabirds in the Baffin Bay - Davis Strait Region" project proposal and on February 16, 2021 the NIRB requested the Proponent obtain a Nunavut Planning Commission Referral prior to the NIRB commencing screening.

On March 4, 2021, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Contaminants in Seabirds in the Baffin Bay - Davis Strait Region" 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 **21YN006** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On March 4, 2021, 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 5, 2021, the NIRB received information from the Proponent and following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on March 10, 2021 requested that the Proponent provide

the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On March 30, 2021, 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/125579.

Project:	Contaminants in Seabirds in the Baffin Bay – Davis Strait Region				
Region:	Qikiqtani (North Baffin)				
Location:	Davis Strait				
Closest Community:	Pond Inlet and Qikiqtarjuaq	Distance (approximate)	200 kilometres (km)	Direction	Outside of the communities
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct research on contaminants, including plastic pollution, legacy contaminants, and oil-related contaminants, in seabirds in Baffin Bay along the Davis Strait region.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	June 2021 to September 2021				

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

- Work with local hunters to collect approximately 60 murres, 60 fulmars, 60 guillemots, 60 kittiwakes and 60 eiders which would be frozen and shipped to Iqaluit to be dissected by the Nunavut Arctic College students;
- Use of locally sourced boats (two (2) boats in each Pond Inlet and Qikiqtarjuaq) to transport personnel to research sites;
- Overnight temporary camping locations to be determined by the boat captains as required;
 - Water would be sourced from local communities and brought to camps;
 - All waste and garbage would be taken back to town and disposed of properly; and
 - Sewage and grey water would be disposed of in sumps located at least 100 metres away from water bodies.
- Research is proposed in both Akpait and Qaqulluit National Wildlife Areas with appropriate guides as well as Prince Leopold Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary; and
- Fuel would be sourced at the communities for refueling activities. Fuel would be stored properly and containers brought back to the community once complete.

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/125579 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination & Application*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Non-Technical Summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Project 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 Environment and Climate Change Canada's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 3, 2021**.

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/125579.

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

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 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.: 149475) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, March 30, 2021). 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., gasoline) 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 hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

8. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
9. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel, and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.

Camps

10. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located durable surfaces, such as gravel or sand that is consolidated and can withstand repeated, heavy use. Measures shall be put in place to prevent erosion, trail formation and damage to the ground.

Other

11. 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.
12. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
13. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.