



NIRB File No.: 21YN022
NPC File No.: 149527

May 7, 2021

Lisa Marie Leclerc
Government of Nunavut
PO Box 377
Kugluktuk, NU, X0B 0E0

Sent via email: lleclerc@gov.nu.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Government of Nunavut's "MuskoX (*Ovibos moschatus*) distribution and abundance of Central Mainland, Nunavut (MX11)" Project Proposal

Dear Lisa Marie Leclerc:

On April 21, 2021, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Government of Nunavut's (GN) "MuskoX (*Ovibos moschatus*) distribution and abundance of Central Mainland, Nunavut (MX11)" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin 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 **21YN022** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On May 3, 2021, 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 May 5, 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/125611.

Project:	Muskox (<i>Ovibos moschatus</i>) distribution and abundance of Central Mainland, Nunavut (MX11)
Region:	Kitikmeot
Location:	Mainland between Kugluktuk and West/Central Portion of the Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary, from the coast to the border of the Northwest Territories and Thelon Game Sanctuary (Management Zone MX11)
Closest Communities:	Kugluktuk Bathurst Inlet Bay Chimo Cambridge Bay
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct an aerial survey on the muskox abundance and distribution in the Management Zone MX-11.
Project Proposed Timeline:	July 1, 2021, to September 15, 2021

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

- Use of one (1) fixed-wing aircraft to conduct aerial wildlife surveys at altitudes of 150 metres (m) at an airspeed of approximately 160 km/h, with transect lines spaced 8 to 12 km apart;
- Basing of the aircraft and personnel in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay with accommodations and fuel sourced locally. Possible landing and refueling might take place at Hope Bay and Back River using on-site fuel.

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 www.nirb.ca/project/125611 and include:

- *NPC Questionnaire, Application, and Conformity Determination*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Map of the Project*
- *Non-Tech Summary in English, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and French*

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 GN's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 28, 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.

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/125611.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-2594 or gdaoust@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Guillaume Daoust
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Natalie O'Grady, Government of Nunavut
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service