



NIRB File No.: 21YN017
NPC File No.: 149490

June 28, 2021

Larry Mayer
University of New Hampshire
24 Colovos Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

Sent via email: larry@ccom.unh.edu

Re: Notice of Screening for University of New Hampshire's "HEALY2021 Transit" Project Proposal

Dear Larry Mayer:

On April 8, 2021, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen University of New Hampshire's (UNH) "HEALY2021 Transit" 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 **21YN017**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On April 8, 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 April 30, 2021, the NIRB released a formal correspondence requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. The NIRB followed up via email (June 1, 2021) requesting an update on when the information would be provided, including releasing a second formal letter on June 7, 2021, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*. On June 15, 2021, the Proponent provided the requested information and the NIRB 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/125612.

Project:	HEALY2021 Transit
Region:	Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Regions
Location:	Transiting through the Northwest Passage from Alaska
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct research that will help better understand climate change and changes in productivity through the NWP and the Arctic.
Project Proposed Timeline:	August to September 2021

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

- Research activities carried out on icebreaker USCGC *Healy*; including
- Use of scientific instruments to measure ocean properties:
 - 3.5 kHz echo-sounder for seabed imaging;
 - Multibeam echo-sounder for bathymetric data collection;
 - Conductivity Temperature Depth (CTD) instrument to measure temperature and salinity of water;
 - XBT thermometer to measure water temperature while underway;
 - XCTD to measure temperature and salinity while underway;
 - Gravimeter to measure the earth's gravity field; and
 - Flow-through sensors to monitor the properties of the seawater while underway.
- Use of bleach and ethanol for cleaning and preservation of samples; and
- Combustible and non-combustible waste to be properly disposed of.

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/125612 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *NIRB Online Application*
- *Non-Technical Summary in Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut*
- *Healy Transit Equipment List*
- *Garbage Management Plan*

- *Waste Disposal Plan*

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 UNH project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 19, 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/125612.

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

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
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada