



NIRB File No.: 21YN043
NPC File No.: 149634

February 8, 2022

Jesse Reimink
The Pennsylvania State University
502 Deike Building
University Park
Pennsylvania 16802, USA

Sent via email: jreimink@psu.edu

Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding the Pennsylvania State University's "Tree River Geoscience Project 2022" Proposal

Dear Jesse Reimink:

On December 15, 2021, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen the Pennsylvania State University's (PSU) "Tree River Geoscience Project 2022" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (The Commission). On January 27, 2022, the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB.

On or before February 7, 2022, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- *Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment (GN – DOE)*
- *Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)*
- *Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125646.

Recognizing most of the comments received that are seeking clarification on activities which are not within the scope of the research activities, the NIRB would like to provide the Pennsylvania State University with an opportunity to provide further detail specific logistics related to parties' comments, prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment.:

- Regarding concerns about potential impacts from low level flying, as the project proposal requires transport to sample locations by float plane, but airplane operations is not managed by the research team, the NIRB requests that the Proponent provide confirmation from the contracted company that the following is in place:

- A spill plan for refuelling of the aircraft;
- Whether low-level flying will be restricted to landing and take-off;
- Provide a basic wildlife protocol which would outline the actions to be taken in the presence of wildlife; and
- Provide a timeline for consultation with the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization which will be required to secure the necessary research licence from the Nunavut Research Institute.

The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **February 16, 2022**. If PSU determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than one (1) week, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada