



Response to Comments – Reimink Penn State Proposal

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:
 - Whether low-level flying will be restricted to landing and take-off
 - *Yes, low flying aircraft will not be used except for take-off and landing*
 - A spill plan for refuelling of the aircraft
 - *We plan on contracting Dave Olsen of Hoarfrost River Huskies for flight needs. They are experienced in working in Nunavut and has spill plans in place.*
- Provide a basic wildlife protocol which would outline the actions to be taken in the presence of wildlife;
 - *We will avoid wildlife in all cases, avoiding landing aircraft near wildlife, and will take avoidance actions if wildlife are encountered while on the ground. In the unlikely event of contact with an overly aggressive and/or dangerous wildlife, we will carry bear-bangers and a shotgun, which will be used to scare off wildlife. Targeting wildlife will only occur if there is an immediate threat to human life.*
- 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.
 - *We were not aware of the need for contacting this agency. We will contact them for consultation immediately.*

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