



NIRB File No.: 22UN018
NPC File No.: 149730

May 6, 2022

Tess Espey
Parks Canada
125 Mittima Road, PO Box 300
Pond Inlet Nunavut X0A 0S0
Canada

Sent via email: tess.espey@pc.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Parks Canada's "Sirmilik National Park radio repeater operations at Paquet Bay & Cape Weld" Project Proposal

Dear Tess Espey:

On April 5, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Parks Canada's "Sirmilik National Park radio repeater operations at Paquet Bay & Cape Weld" 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 **22UN018** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On April 5, 2022, 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 20, 2022, 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 May 2, 2022, 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/125685.

Project:	Sirmilik National Park radio repeater operations at Paquet Bay & Cape Weld				
Region:	Qikiqtani				
Location:	Paquet Bay and Cape Weld; near Pond Inlet				
Closest Community:	Pond Inlet	Distance (approximate)	85 and 75 kilometres (km)	Direction	South and East
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to continue the operation of an existing radio repeater station at Paquet Bay, install and operate a new radio repeater station at Cape Weld, and perform annual maintenance for ten (10) years for radio communications in and around Sirmilik National Park.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	Initial Installation of the New Radio Repeater Station and Annual Maintenance: mid-July 2022 to March 31, 2032.				

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

- Application to continue operating an existing radio repeater station in Paquet Bay for ten (10) years;
- Installation of a new radio repeater station in Cape Weld, operation for ten (10) years, and annual maintenance (2022-2032);
- Annual maintenance of the radio repeater station in Paquet Bay (2022-2032); and
- Annual maintenance of three (3) additional radio repeaters located within the Sirmilik National Park (2022-2032).

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/125685 and include:

- *Proponent Project Description*
- *Proponent's QIA Land Lease Application*
- *NPC's Conformity Determination*
- *Proponents Project Binder*
- *Proponents Non-Technical Summary*
- *Proponent's NIRB Application*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online Public 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 Parks Canada project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 16, 2022**.

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/125685.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4603 or cpelletier@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Caitlin Pelletier
Technical Advisor I
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
Jared Ottenhof, Director, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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. Parks 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.: 149730) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, May 2, 2022; NIRB Application Attachments, May 2, 2022. 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.

Waste Management

5. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris, and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) 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.
6. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes as needed and dispose of as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. All non-combustible wastes from the project site shall be removed to an approved facility for disposal.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

7. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Air Quality

8. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

Wildlife – General

9. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
10. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
11. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

12. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing, or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing, or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
13. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone¹ appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

Aircraft Flight Restrictions

14. The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife and avoid flying directly over animals.
15. The Proponent shall plan flight paths that minimize flights over known habitat likely to have birds or concentrations of wildlife. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.
16. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum flight altitude of 610 metres (2,100 ft) above ground level except during landing, take-off or if there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife or migratory birds.
17. The Proponent shall avoid known concentrations of birds (e.g., bird colonies, moulting areas) by a lateral distance of 1.5 kilometre. If avoidance is not possible maintain a minimum flight altitude of 1,100 metres (3,500 feet) over these areas.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife is present.
19. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

20. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration as identified by current land use plans in place and/or by Inuit Qaujimaningit.
21. The Proponent shall not locate any operation or undertake activities that could block or cause any diversion to migration of caribou or muskoxen.
22. The Proponent shall immediately cease activities likely to interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskoxen until such time as the caribou or muskox have passed.

¹ Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

23. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
24. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
25. The Proponent shall avoid disturbance on slopes prone to natural erosion, and alternative locations shall be utilized.
26. 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.
27. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) upon completion of work and/or abandonment.

Other

28. 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.
29. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
30. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.