



NIRB File No.: 22YN023
NPC File No.: 149759

May 10, 2022

Zongbo Shi
University of Birmingham
School of Geography
Birmingham West Midlands B15 2TT, UK

Sent via email: z.shi@bham.ac.uk.

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Birmingham's "Shipping Emissions in the Arctic and North Atlantic Atmosphere" project proposal

Dear Zongbo Shi:

On April 14, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen University of Birmingham's "Shipping Emissions in the Arctic and North Atlantic Atmosphere" 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 **22YN023** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On April 14, 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.

Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted on April 26, 2022, by the Proponent, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on April 27, 2022, requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On May 3, 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/125690.

Project:	Shipping Emissions in the Arctic and North Atlantic Atmosphere
Region:	Qikiqtani (North; South)
Location:	Davis Strait
Closest Community:	The research vessel <i>Discovery</i> would pass Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, and Iqaluit areas of influence, remaining in Baffin Bay and avoiding 1/10 sea ice due to vessel specifications.
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct research, measuring the atmospheric aerosol and air composition, seawater column sampling, and seabed mapping to establish baseline conditions prior to expected changes from Climate Change during the research cruise.
Project Proposed Timeline:	May 2022, to June 2022.

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

- Sailing from Reykjavik, Iceland, travelling through the Davis Strait and Labrador Sea, and arriving at Southampton, UK without anchoring or stopping on land;
- Use of unmanned drones to collect air samples;
- Use of two (2) ship-fitted echosounders to continuously collect depth measurements and map the seabed; and
- Use of underway sampling system (continuous water analysis) and direct surface water samples to collect seawater samples.

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/125690 and include:

- *Environmental Impact Assessment;*
- *SEANA-M Phase Cruise Instrumentation for Canada*
- *Project Description*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *NIRB Application*

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 University of Birmingham's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 20, 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/125690.

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
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

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. The University of Birmingham (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.: 149759), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the NIRB (Online Application Form, May 3, 2022; NIRB Application Attachments, May 3, 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.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

7. 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.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

8. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials are readily available.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.
10. 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.

Wildlife – General

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

14. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

Marine-Based Activities

15. The Proponent shall, where practicable, coordinate with other vessels to minimize simultaneous vessel traffic in critical wildlife habitat areas allowing the wildlife to continue to use the habitat undisturbed (e.g. Navy Board Inlet, Lancaster Sound, Milne Inlet, Bellot Strait).
16. The Proponent shall ensure that noise be kept to a minimum and shall refrain from making sharp or loud noises, blowing horns or whistles and shall maintain constant engine noise levels.
17. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. This includes ensuring that there are no wake zones within 250 metres and a minimum of 100 metre no go zone around marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels ahead of the path being traveled by mobile mammals and waiting for the mammals to pass is also prohibited.
18. When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, the Proponent shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.
19. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.
20. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.
21. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries, or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.
22. The Proponent shall implement measures designed to minimize disturbance to seabed sediments and benthic communities and marine wildlife when carrying out project activities within the marine environment.

Other

23. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.

24. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.