

NOTICE OF SCREENING

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 22YN022

The "Investigating Scott Inlet seeps with autonomous underwater vehicles" project Project Name:

Proponent Name: Memorial University

Project Type: Research Region: Oikiqtani Region Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125689

Comment Deadline: June 3, 2022

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed "Investigating Scott Inlet seeps with autonomous underwater vehicles" project is located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 60 kilometres (km) from Clyde River. The Proponent intends to conduct research at a naturally occurring oil seep offshore from Scott Inlet to test the use of autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) technology to improve oil spill response, measure dissolved and undissolved oil concentrations in the water column, and understand how crude oil and gas reacts within the ocean with different depths and water quality parameters. The program is proposed to take place from August 2022 to December 2024. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of a survey class AUV for ten (10) hours a day during field work, and equipped with hydrocarbon sensors selected from a methane sniffer, acoustic scanning sonars and fluorometers, and a water sampling unit
- Use of a ship vessel to carry personnel, equipment, and provide accommodation during field work
- Use of an underwater glider remaining in the water during field work and equipped with hydrocarbon sensors selected from a methane sniffer. acoustic scanning sonars and fluorometers
- Potential use of Clyde River's port and community services depending upon vessel selection

Please visit the NIRB's public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: 22YN022 to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB's attention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB's screening process, please contact Caitlin Pelletier, Technical Advisor I toll-free at (867) 983-4603 or cpelletier@nirb.ca.