



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Exeter's
"ICAAP Increasing Carbon Accumulation in Arctic
Peatlands" Project Proposal



GCDOCS # 103849395



Nunavut Regional Office
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence
22YN035
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 103849395

June 17, 2022

Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
via NIRB public registry

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment request for University of Exeter's "ICAAP Increasing Carbon Accumulation in Arctic Peatlands" Project Proposal

Dear Mia Otokiak,

On June 8, 2022 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on the University of Exeter's "ICAAP Increasing Carbon Accumulation in Arctic Peatlands". Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the response below as it pertains to NIRB'S request:

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CIRNAC #1: Physical Environmental Impacts

As a research project proposal, the environmental risks associated with this should be provided within the application. The proponent does not identify the possible impacts of the research project on wildlife, sediment and soil quality, air and water quality.

CIRNAC recommends the proponent provide more information on potential project impacts and proposed mitigation to ensure that the peatlands being studied are not being disturbed more than necessary to obtain the data needed for the research project.

CIRNAC #2: Sampling Location

The proponent has labelled four locations on the map, but listed five locations under activities. Furthermore, the proponent specifies sampling at four locations throughout the application.



CIRNAC recommends the proponent clarify if it is in fact four or five locations being sampled and the coordinates of all sites being sampled.

CIRNAC #3: Fuel Related Activities

The proponent has indicated that All-terrain vehicles, and a boat will be used for transportation, as well as a diesel-powered peat corer. The project proposal does not identify any potential spill risks or mitigation for any fuel related activities.

CIRNAC recommends that the proponent identify fuel and spill related risks for the entire duration of the project along with measures to mitigate such incidents and/or accidents.

CIRNAC #4: Waste Management

CIRNAC notes that the Proponent has not indicated any information regarding waste management procedures or the method of waste disposal.

CIRNAC recommends the Proponent clarify how all waste, generated while completing the field work, will be managed.

CIRNAC #5: Potential for positive effects to Inuit through employment, training, and procurement opportunities

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent prioritize the employment and training of local Inuit as well as procurement with Inuit-owned businesses when implementing project activities. Such efforts will allow for positive effects to be realized by community members and the local Inuit population. As a result, Inuit and Inuit-owned businesses situated in Pond Inlet should be prioritized in any project-related employment, training, and procurement opportunities that may be made available.

CIRNAC #6: Consultation with interested parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consult with the Hamlet of Pond Inlet and the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization. Issues that should be considered as part of any consultation activities should include:

- Incorporation of Inuit knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- The experience of community members who participate in traditional and non-traditional activities within or in close proximity to the project area;
- Training and employment opportunities for community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local businesses, and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.



CIRNAC #7: Potential identification of archaeological and/or paleontological resources.

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent contact the Government of Nunavut's Department of Culture and Heritage to determine if any actions are needed to ensure the protection of Nunavut's archaeological and paleontological resources. The Department of Culture and Heritage oversees the protection and management of heritage resources in Nunavut, in partnership with land claim authorities, regulatory agencies, and the federal government. It would be able to provide any needed guidance or direction to the Proponent.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Courtney White by e-mail at courtney.white@canada.ca or David Abernethy at (867) 222-1610 or email at david.abernethy@canada.ca.

Sincerely,



Felexce Ngwa
Manager, Impact Assessment

