



NIRB File No.: 22TN017
NPC File No.: 149259

June 23, 2022

Lisa Bolton
Scenic Cruises
Level 15/56 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 200 Australia

Sent via email: lisa.bolton@scenic.com.au

Re: Notice of Screening for Scenic Cruises’ “Scenic Cruises – Unlocking the Northwest Passage” project proposal

Dear Lisa Bolton:

On March 30, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Scenic Cruises’ “Scenic Cruises – Unlocking the Northwest Passage” 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 **22TN017**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On March 30, 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 14, 2022, the NIRB released a formal correspondence requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. The NIRB followed up on numerous occasions via email (May 3, 2022) requesting an update on when the information would be provided, including releasing a second formal letter on May 9, 2022, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*. On June 14, 2022, the Proponent provided the requested information and the NIRB 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/125683.

Project:	Scenic Cruises – Unlocking the Northwest Passage
Region:	Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot Regions
Location:	Transiting through the Northwest Passage from Greenland
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct vessel-based tourism activities that would provide passengers opportunities to engage in flightseeing, zodiac cruising, underwater excursions, kayak excursions, wildlife watching, shore landings for guided interpretive walks, and organized community visits.
Project Proposed Timeline:	August 2022

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

- Use of cruise vessel, the *Scenic Eclipse*, for transportation and accommodation of up to 200 passengers;
- Use of helicopters for aerial sightseeing;
- Use of a fleet of twelve (12) zodiacs to facilitate shore landings and sightseeing excursions;
 - All visits to shore to be brief day trips, on foot with no camping, structures built, or motorized transport;
- Use of 10 kayaks for guests and instructors;
- Use of a 6-person submarine for underwater excursions. Planned locations for underwater excursions are:
 - Croker Bay, Devon Island;
 - Radstock Bay, Devon Island; and
 - Johansen Bay, Edinburgh Island.
- Alternate locations for submarine excursions include:
 - Cuming Inlet, Devon Island;
 - Maxwell Bay, Devon Island; and
 - Jenny Lind Island.
- Tourism expedition visits include:
 - Dundas Harbour/Morin Point, Croker Bay, Beechy Island, Prince Leopold Island, Fury Beach, Conningham Bay, and Edinburgh Island to visit historic sites and conduct wildlife viewing;
 - Pre-organized visits to the communities of Pond Inlet, Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay; and
 - Scenic cruising, shore landings and shore-based interpretive activities along the route;
- Storage and use of diesel for vessel operations and for zodiac operations;
- Use of onboard reverse osmosis to supply domestic water needs;

- Generation of combustible wastes, and non-combustible wastes with disposal/recycling at a certified reception port; and
- Generation of sewage and grey water with treatment on board with disposal as per Canadian legislation.

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 www.nirb.ca/project/125683 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application*
- *Waste Management Procedures*
- *Wildlife Watching Guidelines*
- *Additional Information*
- *Technical Itinerary*

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 Scenic Cruises' project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 14, 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.

Additionally, please be aware that the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) are required to coordinate their processes¹ for projects that require a water licence, especially municipal undertakings in order ensure the timely review and processing of the application. In undertaking a coordinated NIRB-NWB process, the Proponent must provide information through the assessment to satisfy both the impact assessment requirements as well as the water licensing process; furthermore, where information to satisfy each process is similar, coordination of the timing or contents of applications may be considered when information is being submitted to both organizations. However, the Proponent has the option to request or opt out of a coordinated process at any time. Should the Proponent wish to discontinue the coordinated process, the Proponent may do so in writing to both the NIRB and the NWB.

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/125683.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.

¹ As per Sections 13.5.2 and 13.6.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, s. 193 of *NuPPAA*, and s. 37 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)
Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)

cc: Distribution List
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
Tina Nleya, Government of Nunavut – Department of Economic Development & Transportation
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Alexander Stubbing, Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services
Hamlet of Pond Inlet
Hamlet of Cambridge Bay
Hamlet of Gjoa Haven