



**NIRB File No.: 22YN054**  
NPC File No.: 149850

August 22, 2022

Krishnan K P  
National Center for Polar and Ocean Research  
Headland Sada, Vasco-da-Gama  
Vasco-da-Gama Goa 403804 India

Sent via email: [krishnan@ncpor.res.in](mailto:krishnan@ncpor.res.in)

**Re: Notice of Screening for National Center for Polar and Ocean Research's "Evaluation of multidrug-resistant bacteria in the thawing permafrost of the Canadian High Arctic" Project Proposal**

Dear Krishnan K P:

On August 3, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen National Center for Polar and Ocean Research's "Evaluation of multidrug-resistant bacteria in the thawing permafrost of the Canadian High Arctic" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable 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 **22YN054** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On August 3, 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 August 11, 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/125738](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125738).

<b>Project:</b>	Evaluation of multidrug-resistant bacteria in the thawing permafrost of the Canadian High Arctic				
<b>Region:</b>	Kitikmeot				
<b>Location:</b>	Cambridge Bay				
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Cambridge Bay	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	8 kilometres (km)	<b>Direction</b>	Northeast
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct long-term monitoring seasonally, field research includes the collection of samples from the active layer and permafrost to evaluate the presence of potential antibiotic-resistant bacteria (ARB) and antibiotic resistant genes (ARG) and delineate data on ARGs and ARB that could be utilized to demarcate the high-risk permafrost regions for the local population. The core samples will be transported back to India (NCPOR-lab) to study microorganisms persevered in the permafrost soils.				
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	November 2022 to October 2026				

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

- Accommodations by the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS);
- Use of a field core sampler to collect samples from six locations from the active layer and permafrost soils near the CHARS campus;
- Project activities to be done on foot; and
- All waste generated will be properly disposed of in an approved facility;

### **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/125738](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125738) and include:

- *CHARS Authorization*
- *Commission Application, 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 National Center for Polar and Ocean Research project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **September 1, 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](mailto: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/125738](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125738).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4616 or [femingak@nirb.ca](mailto:femingak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak  
Technical Advisor I  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuinnaqtun)  
Comment Forms (English, and Inuinnaqtun)

cc: Distribution List  
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut  
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
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. National Center for Polar and Ocean Research (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.: 149850), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, August 11, 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.

### Waste Management

6. 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.

### Wildlife – General

7. 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.
8. The Proponent shall ensure that all wildlife have the right-of-way on any roads or trails. Vehicles are required to slow down or stop and wait to permit the free and unrestricted movement of wildlife across roads or trails at any location.

### Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

9. 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*.

## **Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

10. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
11. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
12. 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.
13. 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.

## **Heritage Sites**

14. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
15. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts, and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.
16. No activities shall be conducted in the vicinity (50 metres buffer zone) of any archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities shall immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to the Government of Nunavut-Department of Culture and Heritage.

## **Other**

17. 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.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
19. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.