



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 22YN054

Project Name: The “Evaluation of multidrug-resistant bacteria in the thawing permafrost of the Canadian High Arctic” project

Proponent Name: National Center for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)

Project Type: Research Region: Kitikmeot Region

Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125738

Comment Deadline: **September 1, 2022**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Evaluation of multidrug-resistant bacteria in the thawing permafrost of the Canadian High Arctic” project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 8 kilometres (km) from Cambridge Bay. 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. The program is proposed to take place from November 2022 to October 2026. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Accommodations by the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS);
- All waste generated will be properly disposed of in an approved facility;
- 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

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **22YN054** 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 Francis Emingak, Technical Advisor I toll-free at (867) 983-4616 or femingak@nirb.ca.