



NIRB File No.: 22YN062
NPC File No.: 149791

February 2, 2023

Dorthe Dahl-Jensen
University of Manitoba
Centre for Earth Observation Science
535 Wallace Building 125 Dysart Rd.
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2

Sent via email: Dorthe.dahl-jensen@umanitoba.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Manitoba's "Mueller's Ice Cap Ice Core" Project Proposal

Dear Dorthe Dahl-Jensen:

On December 7, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen University of Manitoba's (U of M) "Mueller's Ice Cap Ice Core" 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 **22YN062**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On December 7, 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 January 27, 2023, 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/125765.

Project:	Mueller's Ice Cap Ice Core				
Region:	Qikiqtani (North Baffin)				
Location:	Axel Heiberg Island				
Closest Community:	Grise Fiord	Distance (approximate)	440 kilometres (km)	Direction	Northwest
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct ice core research to understand how climate change has affected sea ice and ice cap conditions and to find out how old the Mueller Ice Cap is.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	April 2023 to August 2024				

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

- Use of twin otter airplane to transport personnel to the ice cap;
 - Six (6) hours of aerial surveys (from more than 1,200 feet above ground) to determine ice thickness at inaccessible parts of the ice cap.
- Use of snowmobiles to travel on ice cap;
 - Use of an ice-penetrating radar to determine site to drill.
- Set up and use of temporary camp on ice cap;
- Use of ice core drill to collect ice core;
 - Use of ice core analysis unit to measure ice properties.
- Use of fuel for vehicles, equipment and camp use;
 - Will create a berm to hold all fuel drums.
- Use of 3 generators to power drill, radar and camp;
- Non-combustible and human waste to be flown out at the end of field season; and
- Hiring of local community member for camp season.

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/125765 and include:

- *Planning Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Planning Commission Application and Questionnaire*

- *NIRB Application*
- *Community Involvement Poster*
- *Project Summary*
- *Safety Data Sheet*

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 U of M's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 23, 2023**.

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.

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/125765.

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

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada