



**NIRB File No.: 23YN008**  
NPC File No.: 149935

May 4, 2023

Patrick Murphy  
Woodwell Climate  
149 Woods Hold Rd  
Falmouth Massachusetts 02540  
United States

Sent via email: [pmurphy@woodwellclimate.org](mailto:pmurphy@woodwellclimate.org)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Woodwell Climate's "Permafrost Pathways Monitoring Network" Project Proposal**

Dear Patrick Murphy:

On March 17, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Woodwell Climate's "Permafrost Pathways Monitoring Network" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On April 27, 2023, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

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 **23YN008** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### *Project Scope:*

<b>Project:</b>	Permafrost Pathways Monitoring Network		
<b>Region:</b>	North Baffin/Qikiqtani		
<b>Location:</b>	Resolute Bay and Pond Inlet		
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Resolute Bay and Pond Inlet	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	Within Municipality Boundaries
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct research on the carbon dioxide and methane emissions from natural permafrost ecosystems to understand carbon exchange in the Arctic boreal region.		
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	May 2023 to August 2027		

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

- Installation of monitoring stations within the municipal boundaries of Resolute Bay and Pond Inlet for five (5) years:
  - Installation of a metal tri-pod with sensors with a battery;
  - Placement of battery; and
  - Annual repair and maintenance to structure and equipment by a local hire and staff;
- Locally rented trucks, all-terrain vehicles or snowmachines as appropriate on existing trails with fuel purchased from the community;
- Locally sourced accommodations;
- All installation garbage would be returned to the community for appropriate disposal and all materials would be removed and disposed of at the end of the project; and
- Annual community meetings to provide updates on the project and information to be openly shared to a repository annually.

### *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/125782](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125782) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application & Questionnaire*
- *Revised 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 Woodwell Climate's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 15, 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.

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 at [www.nirb.ca/project/125782](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125782).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4619 or [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard PAg, CTAJ  
Manager, Project Monitoring  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

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  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
Laura Harris LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut  
William Patch, Government of Nunavut  
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut  
Ken Wasylyshen, Government of Nunavut  
Olivier Forbes-Bouillon, Government of Nunavut  
Darrin Nichol, Government of Nunavut  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

## 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. Woodwell Climate (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.: 149935) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, April 27, 2023). 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.
7. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes as needed and dispose of as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. All non-combustible wastes from the project site shall be removed to an approved facility for disposal.

### **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

8. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
9. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
10. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

## **Air Quality**

11. The Proponent shall take appropriate dust suppression measures in conducting all activities for this Project including using approved dust suppression additives and techniques as necessary to maintain ambient air quality.
12. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

## **Wildlife – General**

13. 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.
14. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
15. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
16. 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**

17. 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*.
18. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone<sup>1</sup> appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

## **Road and Ground Disturbance**

19. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at [www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb](http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb).

22. The Proponent shall avoid disturbance on slopes prone to natural erosion, and alternative locations shall be utilized.
23. 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.
24. 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.

**Other**

25. 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.
26. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
27. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.