



Keith Morrison
Manager Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O Box 1360
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RE: NIRB File No. 23YN024: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Geological Survey of Canada's "Lake Sediment Geochemistry Survey" project proposal

The Government of Nunavut (GN) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to comment on Geological Survey of Canada's "Lake Sediment Geochemistry Survey" project proposal. The GN has reviewed the project proposal and related documents and has 2 comments, described in the attached.

Qujannamiik,

[Signature]

Dianne Lapierre
Avatiliriniq Coordinator

*On behalf of
David Kunuk, Deputy Minister
Economic Development and Transportation
Government of Nunavut*

GN Screening Comments

| GN-01: SURVEY LOCATIONS | |
|---|--|
| Department | Environment |
| Organization | Government of Nunavut |
| Subject/Topic | Survey Locations Not Available |
| References | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Screening for the Geological Survey of Canada's "Lake sediment geochemistry survey" Project Proposal, NIRB File No. 23YN024 • NIRB Application Form – 23YN024 • <i>Wildlife Monitoring and Management Plan</i> • <i>Lake Sediment Geochemistry Survey</i> |
| CONCERNS | |
| <p>The Government of Nunavut has reviewed the above documents and has a concern with the lack of information about precise survey locations, flight paths, and fuel cache location being provided. In order to fulsomely review the proposal and assess its potential impacts to the environment, the precise location and timing of activities is needed.</p> <p>Activities are proposed to take place within the post-calving range and during the post-calving period for Beverly, Qamanirjuaq, and Lorillard caribou in the project vicinity. Helicopter overflights have the potential to disturb calves and nursing cows, resulting in distress and potential calf abandonment.</p> | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS | |
| <p>In respect of the above concerns, the Government of Nunavut has the following recommendations for the Proponent:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly identify on a map where surveys will be taking place (i.e., survey locations). 2. Provide precise location of fuel cache (if or when available). 3. Provide proposed flight paths to and from home base (Rankin Inlet or Chesterfield Inlet), survey locations, fuel caches, etc. | |
| ADDITIONAL COMMENTS | |

N/A

GN-02: WILDLIFE MONITORING

Department

Environment

Organization

Government of Nunavut

Subject/Topic

Wildlife Monitoring – Wildlife Monitor

References

- Notice of Screening for the Geological Survey of Canada's "Lake sediment geochemistry survey" Project Proposal, NIRB File No. 23YN024
- NIRB Application Form – 23YN024
- *Wildlife Monitoring and Management Plan*
- *Lake Sediment Geochemistry Survey*

CONCERNS

The Government of Nunavut has reviewed the above documents and acknowledges that the Proponent has prepared a *Wildlife Impact Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* (identified on the NIRB Registry as "*Wildlife Monitoring and Management Plan*") and is satisfied with the general provisions outlined therein.

There is no mention, however, of a dedicated Wildlife Monitor being on duty during project activities. As activities will be taking place within caribou post-calving ranges and the post-calving period, it is recommended that a dedicated Wildlife Monitor be on duty during project activities to monitor for the presence of wildlife and advise of any required mitigations. Predators also have the potential to be present near and during project activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In respect of the above concerns, the Government of Nunavut has the following recommendations for the Proponent:

1. Confirm whether a Wildlife Monitor will be on duty during project activities (recommended to be a local hunter with knowledge of local animal movements).

2. Consult with the regional Hunters and Trappers Organizations to gather local knowledge about animal movements prior to initiating field work and to ensure hunters are aware of project activities and timelines.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Contact info for Government of Nunavut Conservation Officers in project vicinity:

Rankin Inlet:


- Joanne Coutu-Autut, Conservation Officer III, jcoutu-autut@gov.nu.ca, 867-645-8084 (office), 867-645-6447 (mobile)
- Daniel Kaludjuak, Conservation Officer II, dkaludjak2@gov.nu.ca, 867-645-8083 (office)

Chesterfield Inlet:

- Peter Kattegatsiak, Conservation Officer II, pkattegatsiak@gov.nu.ca, 867-898-9130 (office)

Additionally, the Department of Environment would like to know from which publication (online or otherwise) the excerpt in the *Wildlife Impact Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* was taken that references the [Government of] Nunavut Department of Environment in order to ensure information within is up to date, accurate, and complete.



1 (867) 975-7800
 2  (867) 975-7870
 3 www.gov.nu.ca