



NIRB File No.: 24YN003
NPC File No.: 150175

February 19, 2024

Felicity Aston
National Oceanography Centre
European Way
Southampton Hampshire, SO14 3ZH
United Kingdom

Sent via email: F.A.D.Aston@soton.ac.uk

Re: Notice of Screening for National Oceanography Centre's "The B.I.G (Before It's Gone) Expedition" project proposal

Dear Felicity Aston:

On January 11, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen National Oceanography Centre's "The B.I.G (Before It's Gone) Expedition" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On February 7, 2024, 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 **24YN003** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

Project:	The B.I.G (Before It's Gone) Expedition				
Region:	Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region				
Location:	Prince Gustaf Adolf Sea Ice				
Closest Community:	Resolute Bay	Distance (approximate)	500 kilometres (km)	Direction	Northwest

Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct a ten (10) day ski expedition across the Prince Gustaf Adolf Sea to collect small-volume surface snow and surface ice samples from sea ice.
Project Proposed Timeline:	April 2024

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

- Use of two (2) Twin Otter aircrafts for pick-up and drop off from Resolute Bay;
- Use of skis and sleds for travel over snow and sea ice;
- Use of small, handheld tools to collect snow and ice samples;
- Setting up and use of temporary camps throughout the ten (10) day expedition;
 - Two (2) 4-man tents;
 - Camping stove; and
 - Collection of snow for water use.
- Use of Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station at the end of the expedition; and
- Use and storage of 25 litres (L) of stove fuel for the duration of the expedition.

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/125881 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB's Online Application*
- *Non-Technical Project Description*
- *Technical Project Description*
- *Environmental Impact Assessment*

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 Oceanography Centre's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 29, 2024**.

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, 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/125881.

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 I
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
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
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. National Oceanography Centre (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.: 150175) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, February 7, 2024). 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.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

7. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
8. 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.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

9. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
10. The Proponent shall ensure that the areas in use are kept clean and tidy at all times.
11. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon completion of work.

Other

12. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
13. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
14. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.