



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 24YN003

Project Name: The “The B.I.G (Before It’s Gone) Expedition” project
Proponent Name: National Oceanography Centre
Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125881
Comment Deadline: **February 29, 2024**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “The B.I.G (Before It’s Gone) Expedition” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, approximately 500 kilometres (km) from Resolute Bay. 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. The program is proposed to take place April 2024. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- 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
- Use of Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station at the end of the expedition

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **24YN003** 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 Mia Otokiak, Technical Advisor I toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or motokiak@nirb.ca.