



NIRB File No. 09DN018
DFO File No.: NU-11-0037
EC File No.: 4704 004 029

March 8, 2012

To: Nanisivik Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Request Comments Regarding Department of National Defence's Proposed Revised Scope of the "Nanisivik Naval Facility" Project Proposal and its Response to Parties' Comments

Dear Parties:

On November 14, 2008 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the Department of National Defence's (DND or the Proponent) "Nanisivik Naval Facility" project proposal. On November 17, 2008 the NIRB indicated to the Proponent that this project proposal appeared to be located in an area with an approved land use plan (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) and would consequently require a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) prior to initiating the screening process. In addition, the NIRB requested that authorizing agencies with jurisdiction to authorize works or activities associated with this project forward copies of any such applications to the NIRB. On March 12, 2009 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination from the NPC for this file. At that time, the NIRB assigned the project proposal file number 09DN018. Please see Appendix A for a detailed file history of the Nanisivik Naval Facility project proposal.

As requested during the screening of this project proposal, the NIRB received a number of comments from interested parties by October 17, 2011 regarding the Nanisivik Naval Facility project proposal. After careful consideration of the comments received, the NIRB provided DND with an opportunity to provide a response to these comments.

In correspondence dated February 24, 2012 DND indicated that it planned to implement changes to the project scope for the Nanisivik Naval Facility proposal (enclosed). The Proponent further indicated that while the functionality of the site would be reduced, the intent of the facility would remain as initially proposed (i.e. to include a berthing and refuelling facility for the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships and other Government of Canada vessels). Further, on March 5, 2012 the NIRB received DND's response to parties' comments and concerns pertaining to the Nanisivik

Naval Facility proposal (enclosed). The March 5, 2012 response also included information that would be relevant to the reduction in the project scope. All materials received and pertaining to the Board's assessment of the Nanisivik Naval Facility, including original application materials, can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry using the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/09DN018-DND-Nanisivik%20Naval%20Facility/>

The NIRB requests that parties review DND's March 5, 2012 response to comments as well as the February 24, 2012 reduced project scope and provide the Board with any additional comments or concerns as may pertain to the revised scope of the proposal. Specifically, the NIRB requests that parties indicate whether or not the originally submitted comments remain valid and applicable to the reduced project scope as specified by DND.

The NIRB requests that comments be submitted to our office via email to info@nirb.ca or by fax to (867) 983-2594 on or before **March 22, 2012**.

The Board appreciates the efforts of all parties to ensure a thorough assessment of the Nanisivik Naval Facility proposal. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at (867) 793-4633 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Rodney Watson, Department of National Defence
Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Derrick Moggy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Mark Dahl, Environment Canada
Allen Cadenhead, Transport Canada, NWPP
Tamara Van Dyck, Department Construction Canada
Louis Lemay, Department Construction Canada

Attachment: Appendix A: Nanisivik Naval Facility project proposal file history

Enclosed: DND Letter to NIRB Re Reduction in Project Scope (*February 24, 2012*)
DND Letter to NIRB Re Response to Parties' Comments (*March 5, 2012*)

Appendix A

Nanisivik Naval Facility project proposal file history

On November 14, 2008 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the Department of National Defence's (DND) "Nanisivik Naval Facility" project proposal. On November 17, 2008 the NIRB indicated to DND that this project proposal appeared to be located in an area with an approved land use plan (the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) and would consequently require a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) prior to initiating the screening process. In addition, the NIRB requested authorizing agencies with jurisdiction to authorize works or activities associated with this project to forward copies of any such applications to the NIRB. On March 12, 2009 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination from the NPC for this file and assigned the project proposal file number 09DN018.

Following receipt of the initial application materials, the NIRB undertook a preliminary completeness check and found that the proposal as submitted did not contain sufficient information for the NIRB to permit proper screening. On March 23, 2009 the NIRB requested that additional information from the Proponent be provided to the Board by April 6, 2009. By May 20, 2009, the Board had not received the necessary information and again requested that the Proponent submit the outstanding information by June 2, 2009.

On May 27, 2009 the Proponent provided the Board with written notification that the requested additional information would not be provided by June 2, 2009 as DND was in the process of hiring a design consultant and an environmental consultant. On April 29, 2011 the NIRB received additional information in support of this project proposal, but upon review of the submission, found that it was still insufficiently developed to permit proper screening and distribution for public comment. On May 11, 2011 the NIRB requested that the additional outstanding information be provided to the Board by June 1, 2011.

On June 2, 2011 the Proponent provided the Board with written notification requesting additional time to address the outstanding items required by the Board, and on September 6, 2011 the NIRB received the required information in support of this project proposal.

On September 12, 2011 the NIRB invited interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by DND's project proposal to provide comments directly to the NIRB by October 3, 2011. At the request of commenting parties, this deadline was later extended to October 17, 2011. Comments were received from the following interested parties on or before October 17, 2011:

- Qikiqtani Inuit Association
- Nunavut Tourism
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Government of Nunavut
- Transport Canada
- Environment Canada

All comments and documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry using the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/09DN018-DND-Nanisivik%20Naval%20Facility/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/>

On November 1, 2011 the NIRB requested that DND respond to parties' comments and provide additional information and clarification as was requested in those submissions from parties identified above to the NIRB by November 22, 2011. On November 30, 2011 DND requested additional time to review and respond to the comments and it was requested that a response date of February 29, 2012 be granted.

On February 24, 2012 DND indicated in correspondence to the NIRB that after undertaking a review of the infrastructure requirements of the Nanisivik Naval Facility that it planned to reduce the functionality of the site while keeping the intent of the facility the same, i.e. a berthing and refuelling facility for the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships and other Government of Canada vessels. Further, on March 5, 2012 the NIRB received DND's response to parties' comments and concerns pertaining to the Nanisivik Naval Facility proposal. The response also included information that would be relevant to the project's reduced scope.