



NIRB File No.: 13UN038
AANDC File No.: N2013U0028

June 9, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Tracey McCaie
A/Manager Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: tracey.mccaie@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada – Contaminated Sites Division’s “Contwoyto Lake Remediation” Project, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Tracey McCaie:

On May 26, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada – Lands Division (AANDC) for a Quarry Permit associated with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development – Contaminated Sites Division’s (the Proponent) “Contwoyto Lake Remediation” project proposal. Please be advised that a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission was not required for this file, as the proposed project is located within a region that does not currently have an approved land use plan in place (Kitikmeot Region).

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 13UN038) was received by the NIRB from AANDC on December 12, 2013 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On January 23, 2014 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Government of Canada, which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB’s recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No.: 13UN038) and related file information are available from the NIRB’s online public registry at the following location:

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No.: 13UN038), the “Contwoyto Lake Remediation” project was located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 190 kilometres (km) from Bathurst Inlet and 330 km southeast of Kugluktuk. The Proponent indicated that it intended to remediate a former weather station from April 2014 to March 2015 with a possible extension of project activities to March 2016.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Mobilization of equipment (expected April 2014):
 - Creation of an ice airstrip on the esker adjacent to the project site (winter weather dependent);
 - Possible alternate use of Lupin Mine airstrip and/or winter road to transport equipment and supplies;
- Transportation:
 - Fixed wing aircraft used to transport personnel, supplies and equipment;
 - Access during the summer months via float planes (with installation of a temporary floating dock) or by boat from the Lupin Mine site;
 - Potential for an emergency airstrip on the esker during the summer months (the esker would remain in place upon completion of project activities);
 - Use of pre-existing roads and trails on site, including re-construction and repair of roads and airstrip as required;
- Site infrastructure to support cleanup:
 - Establishment and operation of a temporary, mobile camp to accommodate 15 personnel to support ice airstrip construction, mobilization and demobilization activities, and would be removed at end of project;
 - Proposed daily water consumption of 1.3 cubic metres (m³), sourced from Contwoyto Lake;
 - Generation of electricity for camp via diesel generators;
- Remediation activities:
 - Demolition of project-related structures;
 - Consolidation and disposal of debris;
 - Segregation of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes;
- Disposal of wastes:
 - Processing of camp grey water using a Bio Barrier Membrane Bioreactor, including treatment if necessary and discharge of effluent more than 100 metres (m) from any water body;
 - Incineration of sewage waste using a dual chambered CY14A incinerator with resulting ash to be transported to an off-site facility;
 - Incineration of combustible waste on site, removal and transport of non-combustible solid waste to off-site facilities;

- Hazardous materials, including ash classified as hazardous, and oil to be temporarily stored on site and disposed of off-site at appropriately licensed disposal facilities;
- Consolidation of liquid drum contents, transportation of organic liquids and unknown liquids to an appropriate off-site facility and treatment of water at on-site drum wash. Empty barrels/fuel drums to be transported off-site to an appropriately licensed disposal facility;
- Tier II soils impacted by metals (approximately 50 m³) to be packaged, stored and transported south to a licensed disposal facility;
- Landfarming of hydrocarbon contaminated soils (approximately 1,142 m³);
 - Landfarm to be constructed and operated in a primary hydrocarbon treatment area (with secondary area if required), to be decommissioned when soil remediation complete;
 - Development of borrow sources, use of granular material during remediation work;
 - Excavation and relocation of contaminated soil to landfarm;
 - Borrow areas to be backfilled with clean material from the landfarm when remediation complete, re-graded and sloped to prevent erosion;
- Fuel:
 - Transportation, storage and use of fuel (total proposed fuel volume of 79,770 Litres includes diesel, gasoline, aviation fuel, propane and miscellaneous types);
 - Fuel stored in a lined pop-up insta-berm containment facility to be constructed at least 100 m from camp;
 - All fuels transferred from barrels into equipment via 12 volt fuel transfer pumps.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Within the current Quarry Permit application, the Proponent has proposed to establish a borrow area at a specific location in order to support soil remediation activities.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed application does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original January 23, 2014 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Heather Rasmussen, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983 - 4606 or hiasmussen@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Natalie Plato, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada – Contaminated Sites Division
 Erika Solski, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada – Contaminated Sites Division
 Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
 Geoffrey Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 13UN038 (January 23, 2014)