

NIRB File No.: 12UN011

AANDC File Nos.: N2012X0011, 2014QP0027

NWB File No.: 1BR-DPI1217

July 24, 2015

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

Sent via email: tracey.mccaie@aandc.gc.ca; landsmining@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's "Durban and Padloping Islands Remediation" project, Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region

Dear Tracey McCaie:

On July 6, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to AANDC Land Use Permit N2012X0011 for AANDC's "Durban and Padloping Islands Remediation" project proposal. The Board notes 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 (South Baffin Region).

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 12UN011) was received by the NIRB from AANDC on March 16, 2012 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On April 30, 2012 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On August 23, 2012 the NIRB received applications for additional quarry permits from AANDC for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the quarry permit applications, the NIRB determined that the applications were exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on August 28, 2012.

On May 22, 2013 the NIRB received applications for additional quarry permits from AANDC for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the quarry permit applications, the NIRB determined that the applications were exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on June 20, 2013.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 12UN011) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2012/12UN011-AANDC-Durban%20and%20Padloping%20Islands-Remediation%20Project/.

## PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 12UN011), the AANDC – Contaminated Sites Division's "Durban and Padloping Islands Remediation" project was located within the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region, approximately 100 kilometres (km) southeast of Qikiqtarjuaq. The Proponent indicated that it intended to remediate sites on both islands commencing June, 2012 with work anticipated to be complete by September, 2017.

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

- Remediating the former Intermediate Distant Early Warning Line site (FOX-E) on Durban Island and the former weather station and settlement area on Padloping Island;
- Utilising a total crew of fifty (50) at both sites;
- Mobilizing equipment and supplies to the sites via sealift and helicopter;
- Constructing a main camp on Durban Island and a secondary camp on Padloping Island;
- Constructing a sewage lagoon at both sites;
- Excavating borrow materials for road construction and site grading:
- Upgrading site access roads on Durban and Padloping Islands;
- Packaging and stockpiling hazardous and non-hazardous waste for removal via sealift to licensed disposal facilities in the South;
- Removing the remains of two barges near the shoreline on Padloping Island;
- Constructing hydrocarbon treatment landfarm facilities on Durban and Padloping Islands;
- Demobilizing equipment and infrastructure from both sites including removal of all stockpiled material;
- Utilising a total of 200,000 litres (L) each of diesel fuel and aviation fuel, 50,000 L of gasoline, and 2,000 pounds of propane; and
- All waste generated during the proposed project would be disposed of at approved sites; disposal of sewage and grey water at lagoons to be constructed on site.

The activities associated with the August 23, 2012 applications were to apply for the quarry permits necessary to conduct the previously approved remediation activities.

The activities associated with the May 22, 2013 quarry permit application included continued operation of extraction activities, increased amount of borrow material (up to 151,700 cubic metres) and the addition of two borrow sites on Padloping Island.

## CURRENT APPLICATION:

AANDC is currently proposing to extend its Land Use Permit until the end of September 2015 to allow for the temporary storage of equipment and materials at site until demobilization activities can be completed during the 2015 barge shipping season, as previously approved.

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 extension 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 April 30, 2012 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Davin St. Pierre, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4615 or <a href="mailto:dstpierre@nirb.ca">dstpierre@nirb.ca</a>.

Sincerely,

Tara Arko

Director, Technical Services

bua Clark

for

Ryan Barry

**Executive Director** 

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Dele Morakinyo, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 12UN011 (April 30, 2012)