



NIRB File No.: 12DN040
AANDC File No.: N2012X0027
KIA Exemption No.: KTX12X011

July 15, 2013

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

Sent via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca; landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: AANDC - Contaminated Sites Division's "Hope Lake Remediation Project", Kitikmeot Region

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On July 10, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an amendment to the AANDC Land Use Permit (LUP; No. N2012X0027) for AANDC – Contaminated Sites Division's (AANDC; the Proponent) "Hope Lake Remediation Project" proposal. The NIRB 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 (Kitikmeot Region).

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 12DN040) was received by the NIRB from AANDC on October 15, 2012 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On December 11, 2012 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of AANDC 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.: 12DN040) 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/2012/12DN040-AANDC-Hope%20Lake%20Remediation/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No.: 12DN040), the “Hope Lake Remediation Project” was located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 75 kilometres (km) southwest of the community of Kugluktuk. AANDC – Contaminated Sites Division indicated that it intended to remediate the previously contaminated exploration sites at Hope Lake and eliminate/reduce the hazards associated with these sites.

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

- Transportation of camp and equipment from Kugluktuk to Hope Lake site via CAT-Train on existing community winter trail conducted in March/April 2013;
- Remedial activities permitted for completion during the summer of 2013 included:
 - Establishment of camp facilities for up to 32 people;
 - Use of existing (abandoned) airstrip at site to bring in supplies and personnel;
 - Demolition of existing site infrastructure;
 - Packaging and transportation off-site of all hazardous and non-hazardous materials for disposal at a licensed facility via CAT-Train;
 - Excavation, packaging and transportation off-site of contaminated soils for disposal at a licensed facility via CAT-Train;
 - Cleaning, crushing and disposal of empty barrels off-site at a licensed disposal facility;
 - Re-construction and repair of pre-existing trails around site and airstrip;
 - Development of a previously disturbed borrow source for materials used during remediation work;
- Transportation, storage and use of fuel at camp site;
- Transportation, storage and use of small amount of oil and grease;
- Use of water for domestic (except drinking) purposes; drinking water brought to site;
- Production of human and grey-water wastes discharged to a sewage lagoon system;
- Incineration of combustible wastes at the camp site;
- Incineration of liquid organic wastes (fuels, oils and drilling liquid) in drums and containers using a waste oil incinerator at the Hamlet of Kugluktuk; and
- Demobilization of equipment and materials from Hope Lake to Kugluktuk in March/April 2014 via CAT-Train, with final demobilization from Kugluktuk via barge in the summer/fall of 2014.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

AANDC – Contaminated Sites Division is proposing to amend its LUP (No. N2012X0027) associated with this proposal to include the following additional components and activities:

- Use of an ash-collection system (water-tight metal tray with sides of at least 300 millimetres) to burn untreated and unpainted wood. Ash will be collected and transported off-site for disposal at an approved facility; and

- Leachate extraction testing on solid residual material resulting from burning process to determine the leachate toxicity; all non-hazardous materials to be transported to a non-hazardous waste landfill and leachate toxic materials to be packed and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations.

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 amendment 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 December 11, 2012 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Catherine Braun Rodriguez, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4607 or crodriguez@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Natalie Plato, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Mark Yetman, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 12DN040 (December 11, 2012)