



NIRB No.: 09YN056
INAC No.: N2009N0010

June 1, 2010

Honourable Daniel Shewchuk
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager, Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Re: Application exempt from NIRB Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA:
GSC's "Hydrocarbon Potential of Ellef Ringnes Island" Project Proposal

Dear Mosha Cote:

On April 28, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for Geological Survey of Canada's (GSC) "Hydrocarbon Potential of Ellef Ringnes Island" project proposal. On May 18, 2010 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) for this project from the Nunavut Planning Commission.

Please be advised that the original "Ellef Ringnes Island" project proposal was received by the NIRB on June 25, 2009 from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On January 28, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC allowing the proposed project to proceed subject to project-specific recommended terms and conditions.

The current NRI application and the original file information (NIRB File No.: 09YN056) are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2010_SCREENINGS/09YN056-GSC%20-%20Keith%20Dewing/

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, the NIRB is of the understanding that the application received from the NRI has the same scope as the original project proposal, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the January 28, 2010 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at liwan@nirb.ca or by phone 867-983-4606.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

Cc: Keith Dewing, GSC (kdewing@NRCan.gc.ca)
Brian O'Mara, INAC (Brian.OMara@inac-ainc.gc.ca)
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No. 09YN056 (January 28, 2010)