



**NIRB File No.: 12YN021**

April 26, 2012

John Tarduno  
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences  
University of Rochester  
Rochester, NY, 14618

Via email: [john@earth.rochester.edu](mailto:john@earth.rochester.edu)

**Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for University of Rochester - John Tarduno's "The ultra-warm Arctic ca. 90 million years ago" Project Proposal**

Dear John Tarduno:

On April 13, 2012, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received University of Rochester - John Tarduno's (the Proponent) "The ultra-warm Arctic ca. 90 million years ago" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). On April 24, 2012, the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file and commenced screening the project proposal. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **12YN021** – please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

The proposed project is located on Axel Heiberg and Ellesmere islands in the Qikiqtaaluk Region, Nunavut. The objective of the proposed project is to undertake a study of fossils, including turtles, and volcanic rocks to better determine ancient Arctic temperatures and to learn if volcanic activity was responsible for the warm conditions in the region 90 million years ago. The proposed project is to be conducted from late June to late July, 2012.

The proposed project activities include:

- Up to six (6) personnel on site;
- Logistical support from the Canadian Continental Polar Shelf Project including transportation of personnel to sites via helicopter;
- Camping at three (3) areas using mountaineering low-impact tents;
- Sampling sedimentary and volcanic rocks;
- Using water in local streams for daily consumption; and
- Storing twenty (20) litres of white gas in a container for cooking.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal (NIRB File No. 12YN021) can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/> including:

- *NRI Scientific Research License Application*
- *Non-technical Project Summary with map (English and Inuktitut)*
- *Maps*
- *NPC Conformity Determination Application*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*

Pursuant to Article 12, Part 4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the NIRB shall proceed to screen this project proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by University of Rochester – John Tarduno’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 17, 2012**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at (867) 983-4609 or [kboa-antwi@nirb.ca](mailto:kboa-antwi@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kofi Boa-Antwi, M.Sc.  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Mosha Cote, NRI ([Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca](mailto:Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca))

Enclosed: Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)