



NIRB File No. 10YN005

February 4, 2010

Chip Cunliffe
Catlin Arctic Survey
2nd Floor, 3 Minister Court, Mincing Lane
London, EC3R 7DD, UK

Via email: chip@catlinarcticsurvey.com

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Catlin Arctic Survey 2010's "Ice Base" project proposal

Dear Chip Cunliffe:

On January 15, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Catlin Arctic Survey 2010's (the Proponent) "Ice Base" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). On January 22, 2010 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **10YN005** - please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

The proposed research project is located in four separate locations: Ward Hunt Island Ice Shelf and Cape Discovery located in the Quittinirpaaq National Park, Ellesmere Island; and Yelverton Bay and the Arctic Ocean located north of Ellesmere Island in the North Baffin Region, north of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. The program is proposed to take place from March 4, 2010 to May 10, 2010 with the objective of performing biology and chemistry experiments on the progress of ocean acidification, and sampling seawater below the sea-ice and on the northernmost edge of Ellesmere Island. The results of the research would be used to alert and educate (via the Proponent's Arctic Survey Education Program) the global public to the hazards of environmental damage due to ocean acidification as the Arctic is considered a crucial "Early Warning System" for global ocean acidification.

The project activities include:

- Set up of temporary campsite;
 - 1 Polarhaven (32ft x16ft) for use as kitchen/mess tent
 - 3 Polar Chief's to use as science work areas
 - 1 Toilet tent
 - 10 four-man sleeping tents for accommodation
 - Camp powered using 3KW generators and heated with kerosene heaters
- Retrieval of sea-water samples by ice auger drilling and using sample bottles on a winch system;

- Use of Twin Otter Aircraft and Basler DC-3 Aircraft for transportation of personnel to camp and food supply; and,
- Project ground travel supported by snowmobile.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/10YN005-Catlin%20Arctic%20Survey%20-%20Chip%20Cunliffe/> including:

- *NRI Scientific Research Licence Application*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in Inuktitut*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *Maps*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 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.

Be advised that the NIRB is copying interested parties and municipalities most affected by your project proposal. Interested persons are encouraged to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 15, 2010**.

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 note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

Please send your comments to the NIRB at 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 wkuliktana@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Wynter Kuliktana
Assistant Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Appendices: Appendix A – *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Attachments: Comment Form (English and Inuktitut)

Appendix A

Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Catlin Arctic Survey (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water

4. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

Waste

5. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes daily, and remove the ash from incineration activities and non-combustible wastes from the project site to an approved facility for disposal.
6. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of. All wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

7. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
8. The Proponent shall store all chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
9. The Proponent shall report all spills of fuel, or other deleterious materials immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife

10. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
11. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
12. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife and migratory birds.

13. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
15. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e. with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
16. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
17. The Proponent shall ensure all project staff are trained in appropriate bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques.

Physical Environment

18. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. The Proponent shall suspend overland travel of equipment or vehicles if rutting occurs.
19. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Camp

20. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.
21. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of lakes or streams.

Restoration

22. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
23. The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the expiry date of the permit.

Other

24. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.